
SimpleFTP User's Guide

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Chapter 1: Introduction

Welcome to SimpleFTP, the easy to use FTP & SFTP (SecureFTP) client for the **Apple Macintosh®**. SimpleFTP runs on Mac OS® 10.2 or higher. SimpleFTP is a file transfer product, modeled on the RFC 959 File Transfer Protocol (FTP) Internet standard, that emphasizes simplicity and ease of use. SimpleFTP features include:

- Aqua® compliant interface.
- Multi-threaded -- you can have an unlimited number of simultaneous connections to different servers.
- File transfer resume of uploads and downloads (if supported by the server).
- Seamless multi file and folder transfers, and deletion.
- Bookmarks for easy access to commonly used servers.
- Drag & Drop support. Transferring files is as easy as dragging a file or folder!
- Supports the most popular UNIX®, Microsoft Windows®, IBM OS/2® and Apple Macintosh® FTP/SFTP servers.

These features make SimpleFTP a very powerful FTP/SFTP client, yet retains the simplicity you are used to in the Apple Macintosh® world of applications.

Conventions in this manual

It is assumed throughout this manual that you are familiar with basic Macintosh® terms such as point, click, drag, the Finder, etc. If you are not, please refer to the Macintosh® User's Guide to learn the basics of your Operating System.

References to an item or menu will be in the **Chicago** font. When an Action is required it will be in a ***bold italic*** font.

Chapter 2: Installation

Requirements

The recommended system configuration for SimpleFTP is an Apple Macintosh® computer with Mac OS 10.2 or higher and 1 MB of free hard disk space.

Before you install

Please read the accompanying ReadMe file (if included) for last minute information that could not make it into this manual.

Installation

SimpleFTP comes compressed with Aladdin's StuffIt. Simply double click on the archive, and StuffIt Expander (that comes with Mac OS X), will uncompress the archive into a folder. We suggest that you move the SimpleFTP folder into your *Applications* folder.

Note: The demo period is 15 days from the first time you launch SimpleFTP. After that time you will have to register SimpleFTP in order to keep using it.

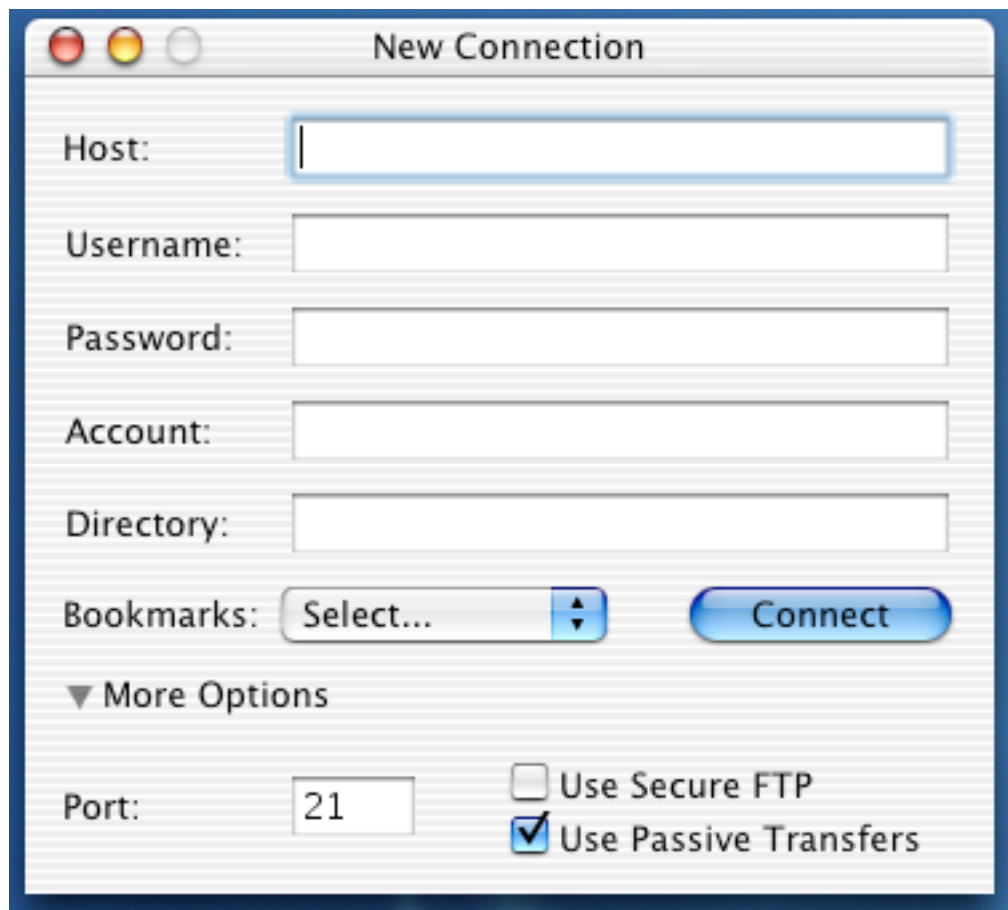
Chapter 3: Using SimpleFTP

Starting SimpleFTP

Go to the folder you installed SimpleFTP in, and simply double-click the SimpleFTP icon to run it.



You should be presented with a **New Connection** window.



New Connection

Host:

Username:

Password:

Account:

Directory:

Bookmarks:

▼ More Options

Port: ☐ Use Secure FTP ☒ Use Passive Transfers

Figure 1: New Connection window

Hint: You can tell SimpleFTP to automatically fill all the fields of a **New Connection** window upon opening. Please refer to **Chapter 4: Preferences** for more information.

Entering the remote server information

Fill in the New Connection window with the appropriate server information. Here is a description of the fields:

Host: The address or URL of the remote server. You can enter an IP address in numeric form (ex: 192.168.1.10), text form (ex: <ftp.mynetwork.com>), or URL form (ex: <ftp://ftp.mynetwork.com>).

The URL format will parse username, password and initial directory, if included. If not included, you can add them into the other appropriate fields in the window.

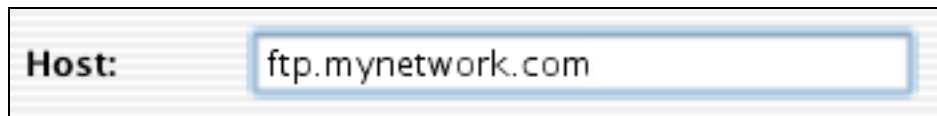
A screenshot of a text input field labeled "Host:". The field contains the text "ftp.mynetwork.com". The field has a light blue border and a subtle gradient background.

Figure 2: Host field

Username: The user name passed to the remote server during authentication. If the **Host** field included a username, then the information on this field is ignored.

A screenshot of a text input field labeled "Username:". The field contains the text "myname". The field has a light blue border and a subtle gradient background.

Figure 3: Username field

Hint: You can leave the **Username** field empty if you intend to connect to the remote server as an *anonymous* user.

Password: The password passed to the remote server during authentication. For security reasons, you will only see dots while typing a password. If the **Host** field included a password, then the information on this field is ignored. If the **Username** field was left blank, this is the password passed to the server when attempting an anonymous connection.

A screenshot of a user interface element showing a label 'Password:' followed by a text input field. The input field contains ten dots, indicating a password is entered but hidden for security.

Figure 4: Password field

Account (FTP Only): Some FTP servers require extra account information, in addition to the username. Use this field to provide the information if your remote server requires it.

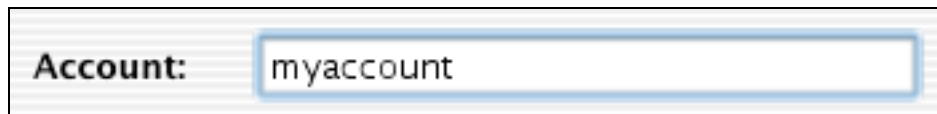
A screenshot of a user interface element showing a label 'Account:' followed by a text input field. The input field contains the text 'myaccount'.

Figure 5: Account field

Directory: The path of the directory you want to automatically join upon connecting to the remote server. You can leave this field empty if you want to automatically join the default remote directory as specified on the remote server for your account. If the **Host** field included a directory path, the information on this field is ignored.

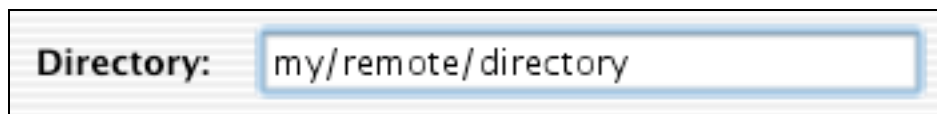
A screenshot of a user interface element showing a label 'Directory:' followed by a text input field. The input field contains the text 'my/remote/directory'.

Figure 6: Directory field

Note: Click on the **More Options** triangle to expand the **New Connection** window to reveal the **Port, Use Passive Transfers** and **Use Secure FTP** options.

Port: The port number to use when opening the connection. The default FTP port number is **21** (**22** for Secure FTP). If the remote server you are trying to connect to uses a different port number, you can enter it here. Please consult the remote server's administrator about the server's FTP/SFTP port number.

A screenshot of a software interface showing a label 'Port:' followed by a text input field containing the number '21'. The input field has a light blue border and a subtle shadow.

Figure 7: Port field

Use Passive Transfers (FTP only): Depending on your network configuration, the remote server may not be able to initiate connections to your computer. This is mostly common when your computer is part of a VPN network, or the network has a firewall preventing external connections to go through it. If that is the case, you can check this option to enable what is known as 'Passive Transfers', which forces your computer to always initiate the connections to the server. This is the default. You may uncheck it if you prefer to have the server initiate the connections for you. Please consult your network administrator regarding VPN configuration or firewalls in your local network.

A screenshot of a software interface showing a checked checkbox followed by the text 'Use Passive Transfers'. The checkbox is a small square with a blue border and a white checkmark inside.

Figure 8: Passive Transfers checkbox

Use Secure FTP: Allows you to enable secure FTP transactions. All data is encrypted between the client and server. The destination host must have a secure FTP server running.

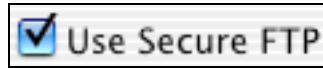


Figure 9: Secure FTP checkbox

A few comments about FTP vs. SFTP: There seems to be a lot of hype around needing “secure” connections to FTP servers. Most servers that you will encounter will *only* accept regular (non secure/encrypted) FTP connections. That is perfectly acceptable for connections to public servers, most of which use “anonymous” logins anyway.

A secure connection to a business or private server is preferable when the user id, password and data should be encrypted to keep it safe from potential hackers. If you are unsure if the FTP server you are connecting to supports SFTP, try connecting using the Secure FTP option. If you are unable to connect, then that server does not support secure connections.

Keep in mind that transferring data via secure FTP will be slower than normal FTP. It takes additional overhead to encrypt and decrypt the data on the sending and receiving machines.

In **OSX**, in the **Sharing** control panel, there is a service named **Remote Logon** will allow remote connections to your system using SFTP connections. The remote user would require a User setup from the **Accounts** control panel in your system with the correct permissions. Also note that you do *not* need to turn on **FTP Access** to enable only SFTP/SSH connections.

Bookmarks: After you have filled in all the fields, and before clicking the **Connect** button, you can save all the information in a Bookmark. Please refer to **Chapter 5: Bookmarks** for further information.

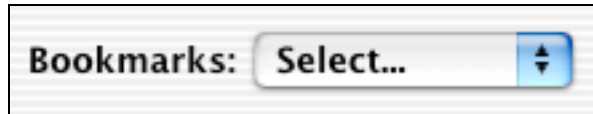


Figure 10: Bookmarks popup

Connecting to the remote server:

Simply click the Connect button to initiate the connection to the remote server.

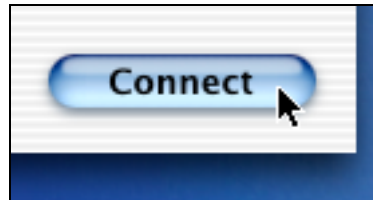


Figure 11: Connect button

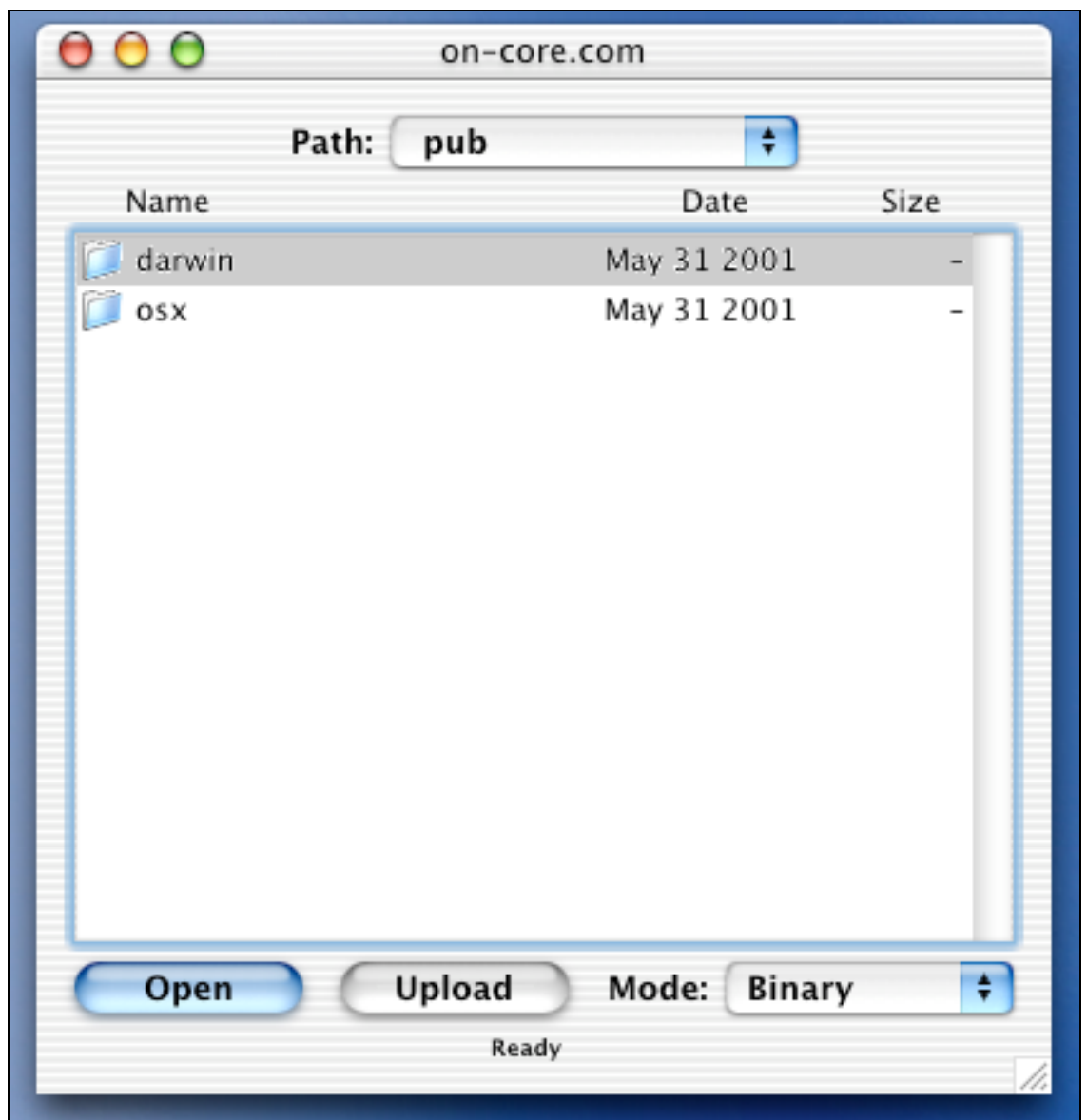


Figure 12: Connected to a remote site

Redial

In the event that a successful connection cannot be established, you will be presented with the Redial dialog:



Figure 13: Redial dialog

It will automatically retry the connection in 30 seconds. You can specify a longer delay between retries by changing the number in the text box, and clicking the Apply button. If, instead, you want to retry the connection immediately, press the Retry Now button, or press Cancel to stop the redial attempt. While waiting, if you want to add this connection setting to your list of Bookmarks, press the Add Bookmark button.

The Interface

SimpleFTP provides a very intuitive interface, and provides different ways to accomplish the same task. For people who prefer Menus, there is the **Actions** Menu. For users who like shortcuts, all functions are accessible through shortcuts (You can look in the **Actions** Menu to see what they are).

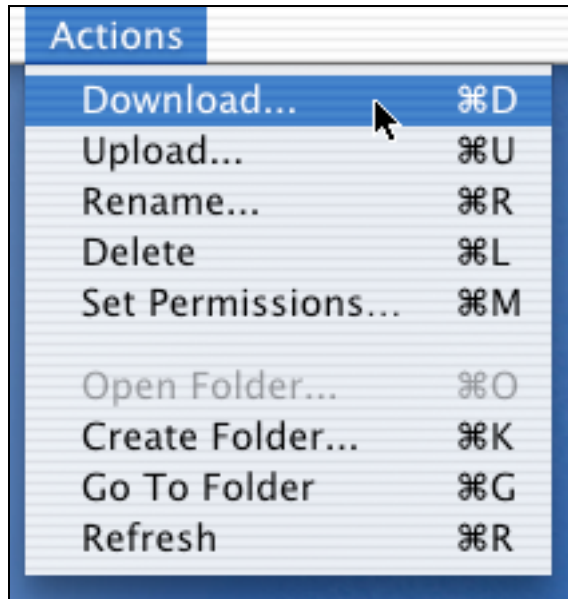


Figure 14: The Action Menu

Hint: For users who like keyboard shortcuts, simply take a look at the **Actions** Menu to see how functions translate into keystrokes.

Hint: If you have a mouse that has a *Scroll Wheel*, you can use it to scroll through the *File List*. Simply click on the list once to activate it, then move the wheel to scroll.

Functions can also be accessed through a Contextual Menu, by holding down the **Control** key and clicking on the File List (If you have a multi-button mouse, and you have programmed the right button as a Control-click, you can use the **Right Mouse** button to activate the File List).

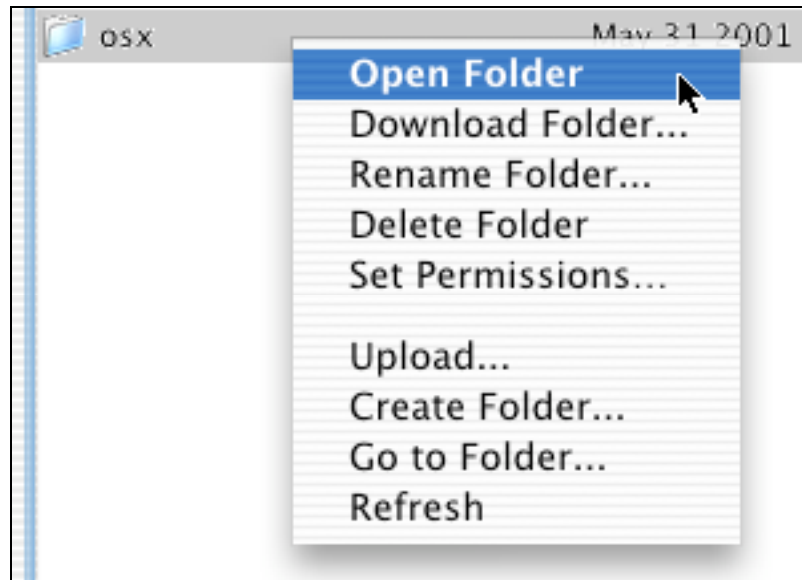


Figure 15: Contextual Menu

Finally, you can also use the supplied buttons, along with **Drag and Drop**.

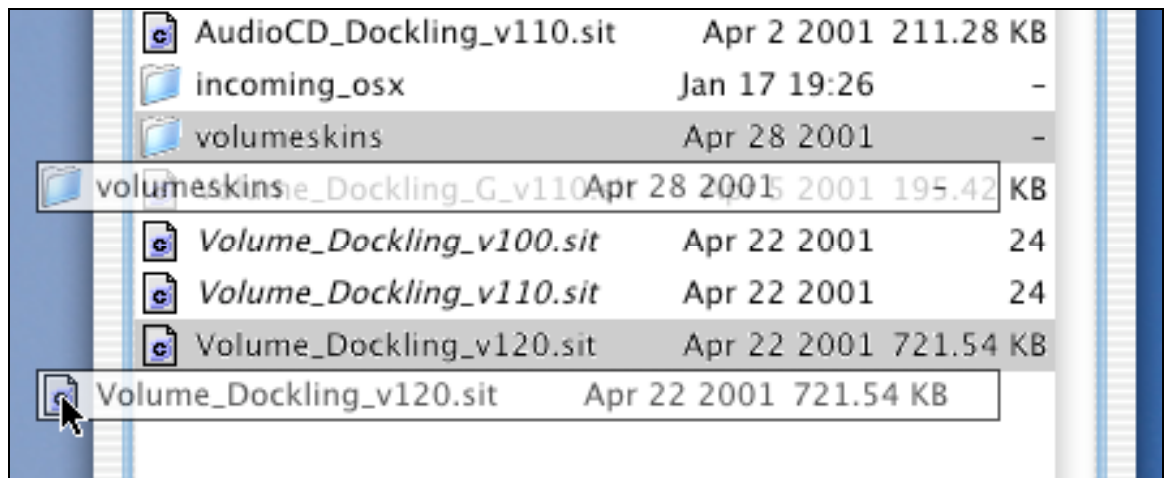


Figure 16: Starting a download with Drag and Drop

File List sorting

You can sort the files by Name, Date or Size, in either ascending or descending order. To do so, first, click the column title to sort by that column criteria, then click again to change between ascending and descending order.

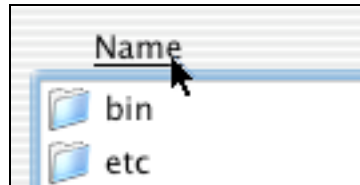


Figure 17: Sort by Name

Functions

Here is a description of functions available in SimpleFTP.

Download: Retrieves the selected files and folders on the remote server to your computer. You will be asked to select where you want to put them on your local drive, and the file transfer will begin. If any of the files you are trying to retrieve already exist on the local destination, SimpleFTP will ask you how to proceed: If it is a single file, you can either *overwrite* it or *resume* an old transfer. In addition, if it is a **multi file** transfer, you will also be able to **skip** this file, **overwrite all** or **resume all** the remaining files in the batch.

Hint: Remember you can simply drag the files and folders you want to transfer from the File List and drop them into the Finder to start a Download.

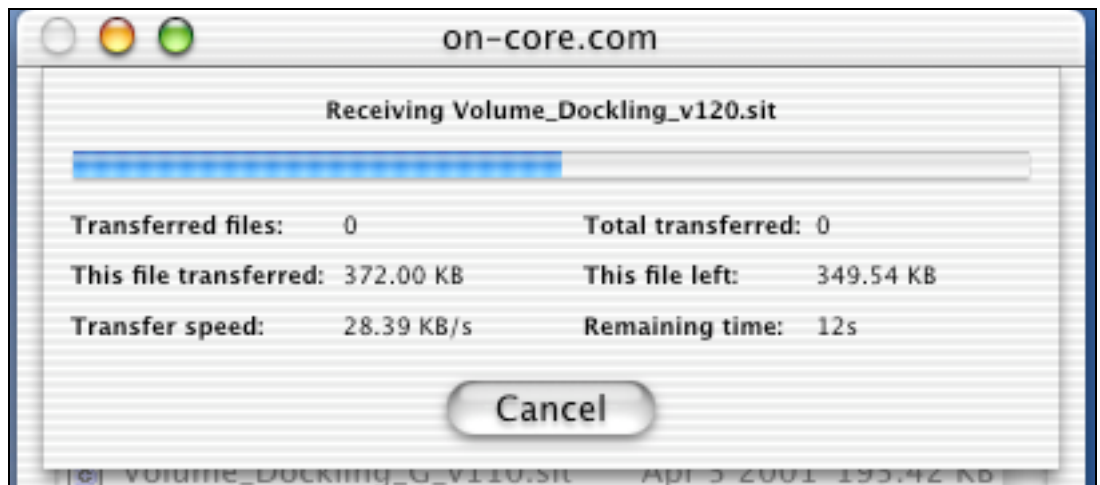


Figure 18: Downloading

Note: If the **Resume** button is *disabled*, that means the remote server does not support resuming transfers.

Upload: Copies local files and folders to the remote server. Select the files and folders you want to send, and the file transfer will begin. If any of the files you are trying to send already exist on the remote server, SimpleFTP will ask you how to proceed: If any of the files you are trying to send already exist on the local destination, SimpleFTP will ask you how to proceed: If it is a single file, you can either overwrite it or resume an old transfer. In addition, if it is a multi file transfer, you will also be able to skip this file, overwrite all, or resume for all the remaining files in the batch. Starting with version 1.2 of SimpleFTP, local invisible files are no longer uploaded automatically. They can still be uploaded manually.

Hint: Remember you can simply drag the files and folders you want to transfer to the remote server and drop them into the File List to start an Upload.

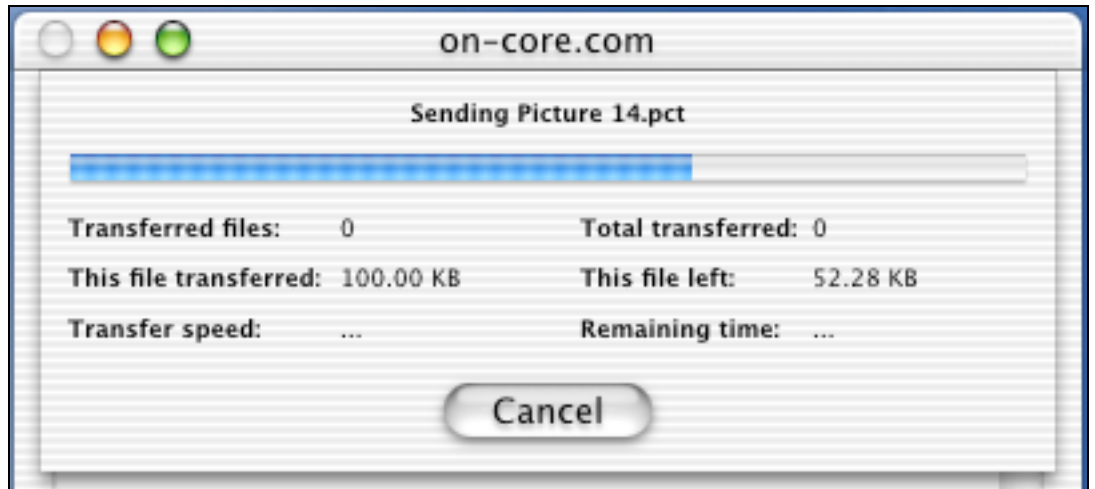


Figure 19: Uploading

Note: If the **Resume** button is *disabled*, that means the remote server does not support resuming transfers.

Rename: Choose this option to change the name of a file or a folder. Note that this option is only available when a single item is selected in the File List.

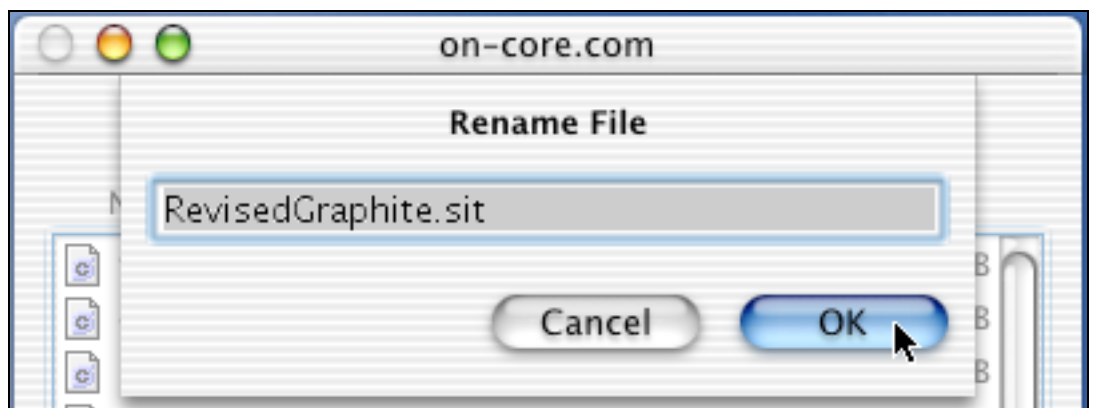


Figure 20: Renaming a file

Delete: You can delete files and folders using this function. Simply select all the files and folders you want to delete, and SimpleFTP will delete them. In the case of folders, SimpleFTP will recursively go inside every folder or file within it, deleting the entire hierarchy. You will be prompted to verify you want to proceed before starting the actual deletion.



Figure 21: Confirm Deletion

Open Folder: Click a folder on the File List, and select this function to enter, and see its contents.

Create Folder: This function creates a folder on the remote server.

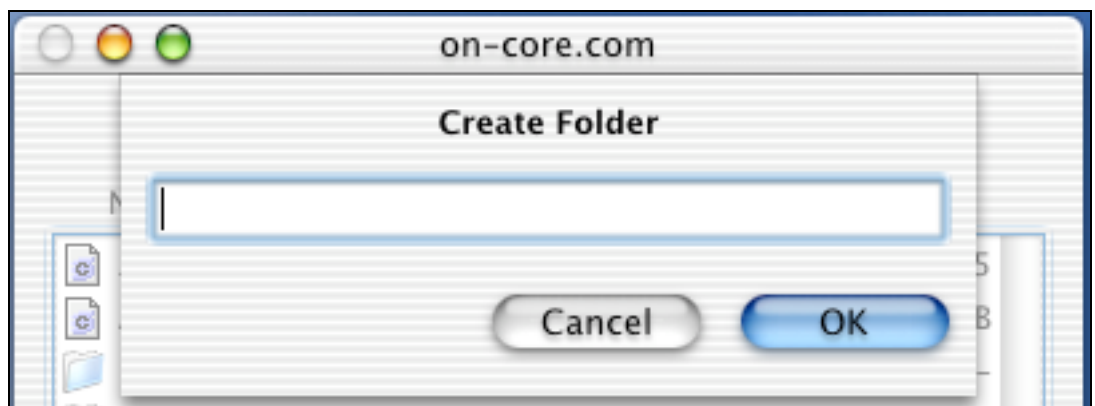


Figure 22: Creating a remote folder

Go To Folder: To quickly access a folder on a remote server, select this function and type in the remote folder path.

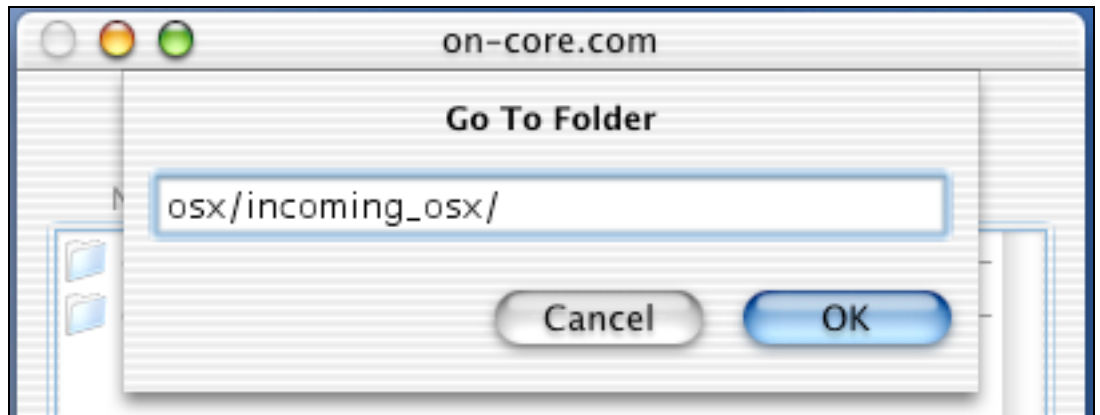


Figure 23: Quickly accessing a remote folder

Refresh: If you need to synchronize the contents of the File List, select this function. It will reload the current folder information from the remote server and rebuild the File List.

Set Permissions: This option is only available to servers identifying themselves as Unix® compatible. It enables the connected user to change the current read, write, execute or search permissions on the selected file or folder. Not all users might have enough privileges to use this function.

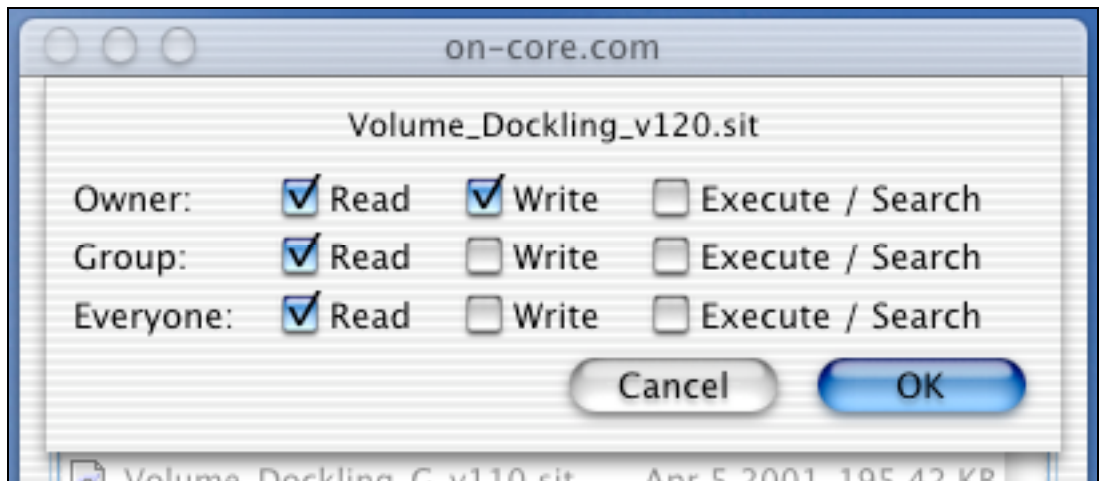


Figure 24: Set Permissions

Note: Some Unix® servers might not support the Set Permissions command.

Other features

SimpleFTP includes these extra features:

Unlimited number of connections

Create a *new session* to different servers at any time. Just choose **New Connection** from the File Menu.

Delete files and folders using Drag & Drop

To delete files and folders using Drag and Drop, simply drag them to the Trash icon on the Dock. You will be prompted for confirmation before the actual deletion process starts.

Aborted files are not altered

Unlike other FTP clients, any partially downloaded file is stored as is, without appending any extra information to it. This gives full compatibility with other clients, including the command-line client built into Mac OS X.

Multithreaded

SimpleFTP takes advantage of the preemptive multitasking capabilities of Mac OS X, and creates every new connection and file transfer on its own thread. This ensures smooth and fast file transfers, without wasting processor power.

Fully functional Demo

Try SimpleFTP before you buy. The demo version includes all the functions and features described in this manual fully enabled during the trial period. We're sure you'll find SimpleFTP to be a very complete FTP client, and we hope you will make it your FTP client of choice.

Chapter 4: Preferences

To access the **Preferences** window, choose the **Preferences** item from the **SimpleFTP** menu.

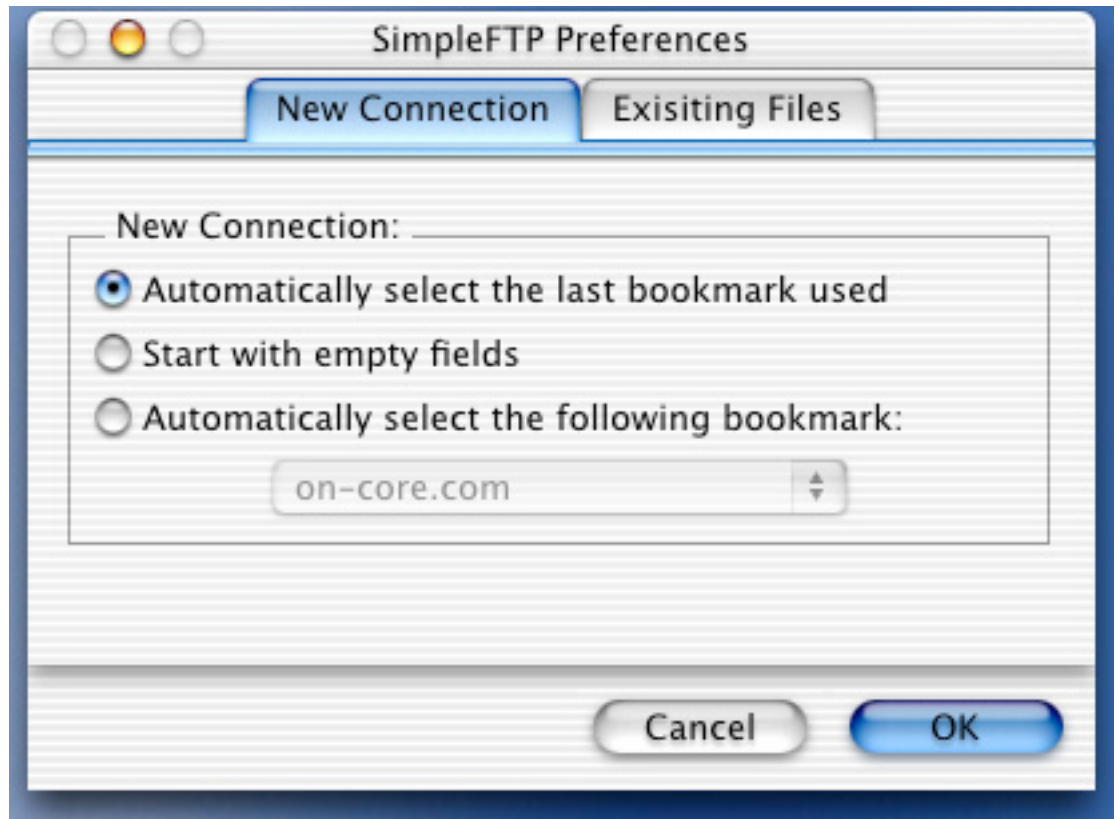


Figure 25: New Connection Settings

New Connection settings:

This dialog allows you to select which action to take when a **New Connection** window is opened.

- **Automatically select the last bookmark used:** Fills in any future New Connection window with the information contained in the last Bookmark you selected using the Bookmark popup button from the previous New Connection window.
- **Start with empty fields:** Leaves all the fields empty in any future New Connection window.

- **Automatically select the following bookmark:** Fills in any future New Connection window with the information contained in the Bookmark you select in the popup button below this checkbox.

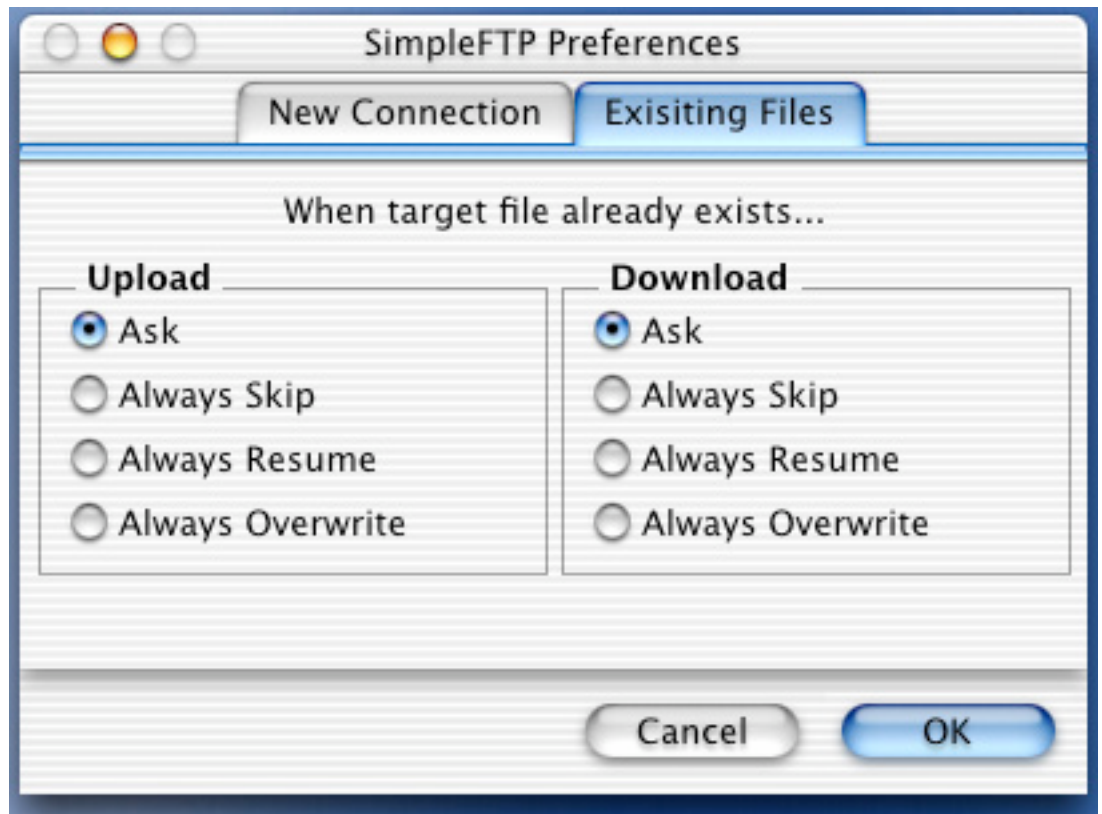


Figure 26: Existing Files settings

Existing Files settings:

This dialog lets you choose what action should be taken if a file already exists during an Upload or Download operation.

- **Ask:** The user will be asked what action to take.
- **Always Skip:** Files already existing will be skipped.
- **Always Resume:** Files already existing will be resumed only if the destination file is smaller than the source file.
- **Always Overwrite:** If a file with the same name already exists, it will be deleted and replaced with a new copy.

Resume vs. Overwrite:

Resume You would want to use **Resume** for an upload or download process that has been interrupted so you can resume the transfer from where it last stopped instead of starting over from scratch. This is especially handy when transferring large files, thus saving time if you loose the connection. SimpleFTP checks the destination file's current size and compares it to the length of the source file. If the destination file is smaller than the source file, the transfer will continue from that point onward.

Warning: Do not use **Resume** when there may be an old version(s) of the destination file(s). **Resume** will append bytes from the new file starting from the size of the older file. This will cause the file to become invalid. Example: If an old text file named "myfile" contained the text "ABC" and a newer version of the "myfile" contained "DEFGH", the resulting destination file would now contain "ABCGH".

Overwrite means that the file transfer will first delete the destination file, then transfer the file starting at the beginning. This ensures that the destination file is always the same as the source file.

Chapter 5: Bookmarks

Bookmarks provide a quick and convenient way to access frequently used remote server information.

Creating a Bookmark

To add a Bookmark, fill in the remote server information in the **New Connection** window and select *Add...* from the Bookmark popup button or by selecting *Add Bookmark...* from the File Menu. A new window will appear asking you to name this new bookmark as it will appear on the Bookmark popup button. Click **OK** to add it.

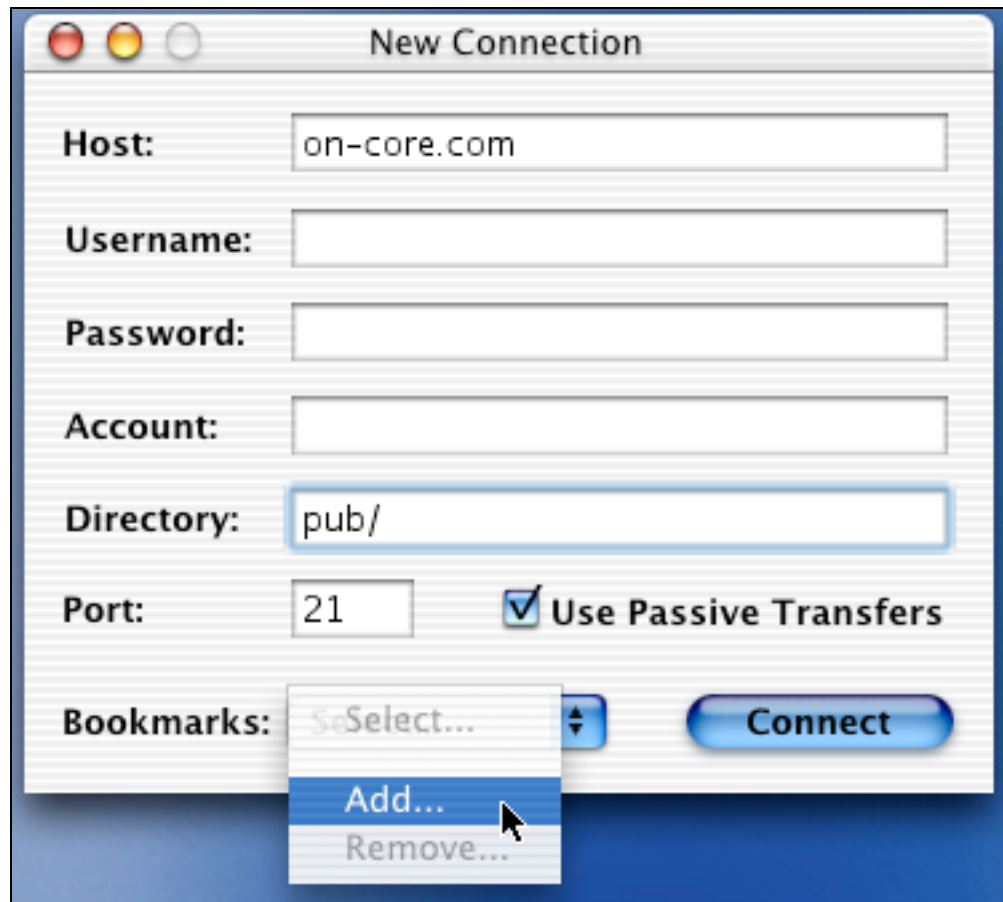


Figure 27: Creating a Bookmark

You can also add a Bookmark once a connection has been established by selecting *Add Bookmark...* from the File Menu.

Selecting a Bookmark

To select a **Bookmark**, simply click on the Bookmark popup button and choose it. All the fields on the **New Connection** window will be completed with the selected Bookmark information.

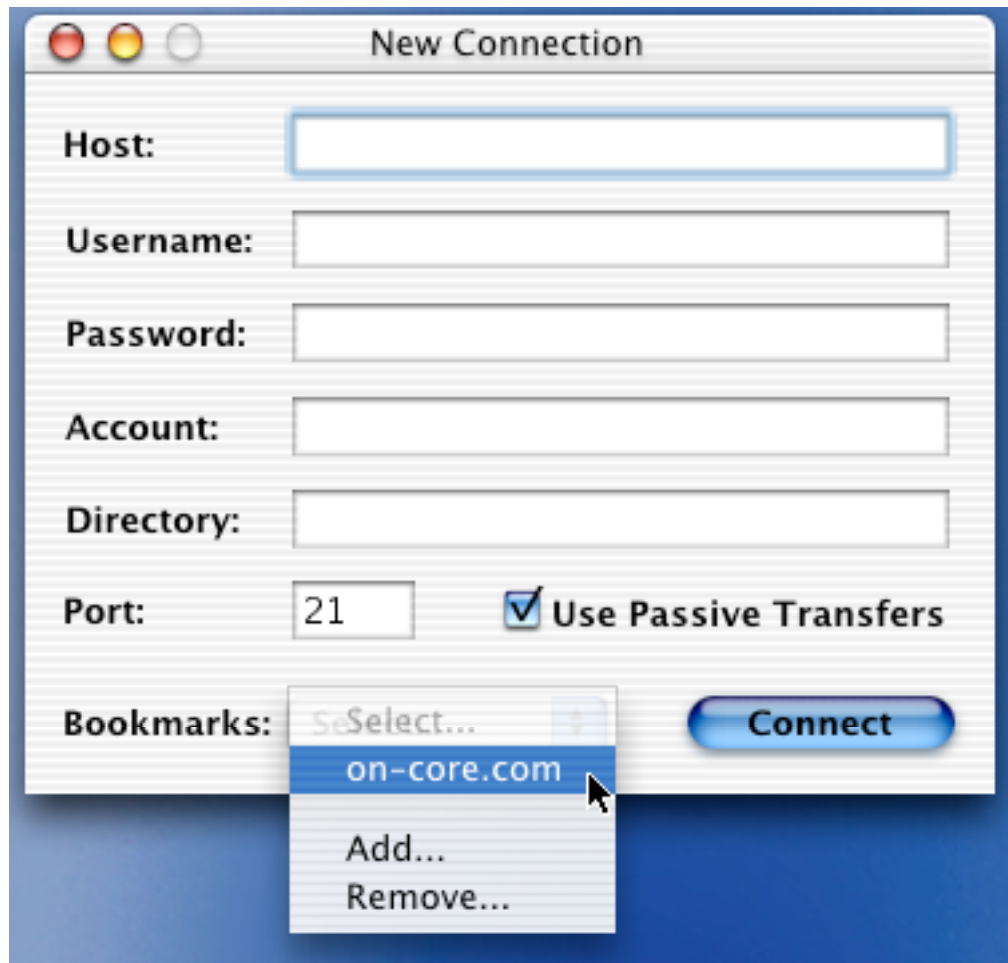


Figure 28: Selecting a Bookmark

Hint: Bookmarks are automatically sorted alphabetically. This makes it much easier to find the Bookmark you want.

Removing a Bookmark

To remove a **Bookmark**, select **Remove...** on the **Bookmark** popup button. A dialog will appear, asking you to select the Bookmark you want to remove. Click **OK** to remove the selected Bookmark from your list.

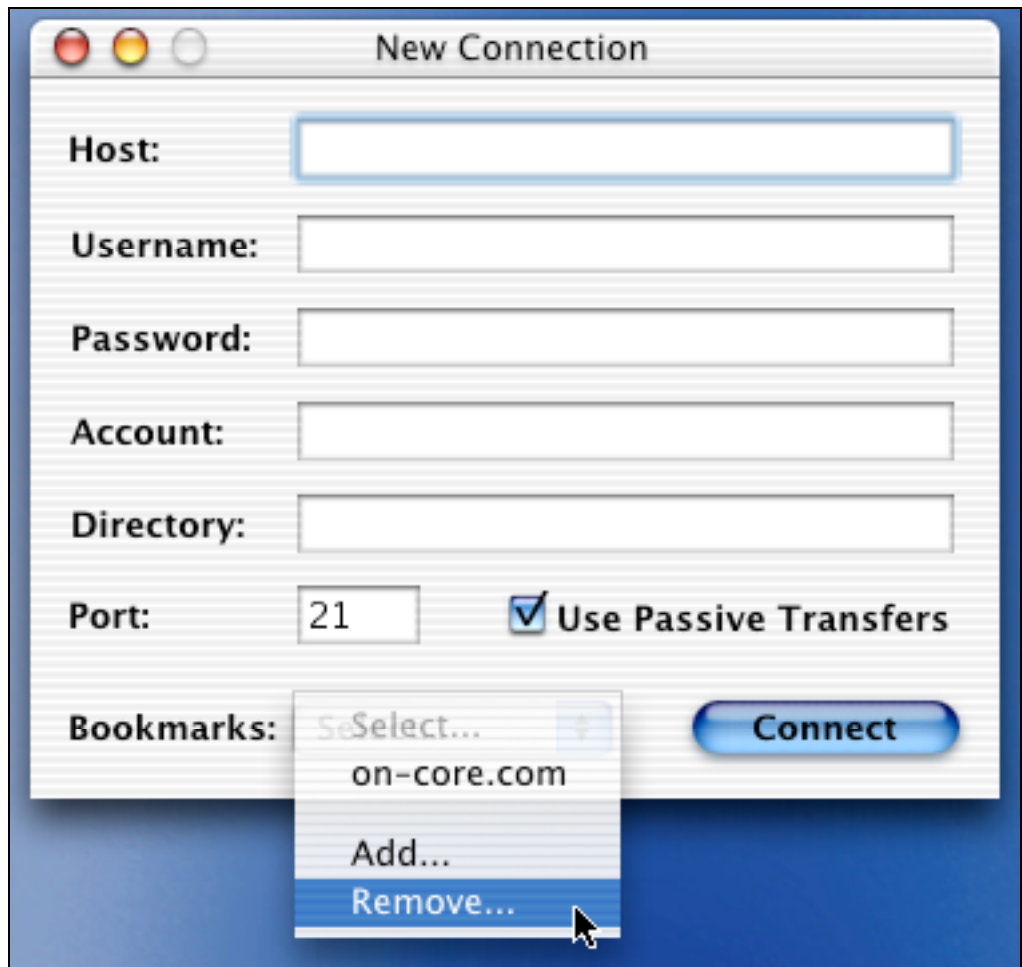


Figure 29: Removing a Bookmark

Replacing a Bookmark

To replace a Bookmark, follow the same procedure described in 'Creating a Bookmark' above. When you enter the name, type the name of the Bookmark you wish to replace, and press **OK**. A dialog will appear, asking you to confirm the replace operation. Click Replace to overwrite the Bookmark with the new information.

Chapter 6: Troubleshooting

Errors while attempting to connect

There are too many possible errors to list them all here while attempting to connect to a remote server. As a general rule, always double check that the information you entered is correct, and if the problem persists, contact the remote server administrator for further assistance. Here is a list of the most common errors, and their explanations:

Error: User authentication failed.

Explanation: The remote server could not verify your username or password. Make sure you entered the information correctly in the **New Connection** window.

Error: The server address or name is incorrect.

Explanation: The remote server address or name was typed incorrectly. You will also get this error if you tried to connect using a remote server name, and your name server (DNS) is unavailable. Check the **Host** field, and make sure it is correct.

Error: Network is down.

Explanation: Your current network settings are invalid or there is a problem with your network that is preventing the Operating System to access it. Check the Macintosh® User's Guide to see how you can properly configure your network settings and fix this problem.

Error: Max Users reached. Please try again later.

Explanation: The remote server has a limit on the number of users that can be connected at the same time, and that limit has been reached. Try connecting again later.

Errors while connected to the remote server

You might come across different error messages during your connection to a remote server. Since every server implements different functions and their own error strings, it is difficult to list all the possibilities. Always contact the remote system administrator when in doubt. A list of the most common errors and their explanation follows:

Error: Access Denied.

Explanation: You don't have access privileges to perform the last operation. Contact your remote system administrator regarding access privileges and operations you can perform with your access level.

Error: The last operation timed out.

Explanation: The remote server did not respond in time to the last operation the client sent. If the operation involved aborting an ongoing file transfer, the client will attempt to reestablish a connection to the server. Bad connection conditions are the normal cause for this problem.

Error: The connection to the server was lost.

Explanation: The connection to the remote server was interrupted. Verify that your network is in working condition, and try connecting again.

Error: The Operating System returned error <number>

Explanation: Mac OS X returned an error while attempting to process the last operation. Check the Macintosh® User's Guide for further information about error codes and solutions to the problem.

Chapter 7: How To Register

Obtaining an Unlock Code

You can purchase a license for SimpleFTP by visiting <http://www.on-core.com>, go to the **Products** page, and click on the “Buy Now” button for SimpleFTP. The license is \$15.00 US and you can easily pay using PayPal. If you prefer to pay by Check, please make it payable to: On-Core, Inc. Postal information is available in this manual and our website. **Very Important:** we absolutely require an e-mail address to send you the Unlock Code. Once we receive the payment, we will e-mail you the Unlock Code. If you don't receive your Unlock Code within 24 hours, please send us an email to: support@on-core.com

Registering SimpleFTP

To enter your Unlock Code, go to ‘About SimpleFTP...’ located in the SimpleFTP menu. Click on the ‘Enter Unlock Code’ button and type or paste the code that you received from us. Then simply click OK, and it should thank you for registering. If you get an error message please double check that the code you entered matches the one we sent. If you still have problems, please contact us at: support@on-core.com

Note: Due to the size of the Unlock Code, we recommend using Copy & Paste, and avoid typing it in manually.
