

Modifying (Editing) Finder 7.x's Command Keys

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Under System 6.0.x, modifying, or editing, Finder's menu was relatively simple. There were Shareware and commercial applications that did an excellent job. Of course, one could always use ResEdit as well. Personally, ResEdit was my choice. Unfortunately, when I made the recent change over to System 7, modifying the Finder's command keys wasn't as easy as it was under System 6.0.x. No longer was there the "Menu" resource I had become so familiar with. Under System 7.x, the "Menu" resource became the "fmnu" resource. To make matters worse, ResEdit 2.1 doesn't open the "fmnu" resource with a template for easy editing. Instead, ResEdit 2.1 opens the "fmnu" resource in a hexadecimal format.

Since fooling around with resources in a hexadecimal format is a bit tricky, especially for the novice ResEdit 2.1 user, I decided to put together this "give me your hand and I'll show you how" guide to modifying, or editing, System 7's Finder with ResEdit 2.1. With this guide, modifying, or editing, Finder's command keys should be as easy as getting a System ID = 2 error 'crash' under System 6.0.x.

This guide will show you how to add command keys to the following Finder menu items:

1. File menu's "Make Alias".
2. Special menu's:
 - a. "Clean Up Desktop"
 - b. "Empty Trash"
 - c. "Restart"
 - d. "Shut Down"

Note: You do not have to subscribe exactly to command keys I use. I will provide enough information for you to make your own decision as to what keys you will want to use. However, keep in mind that many keys are already used by other menu items.

You will need the following information in order to make the desired changes:

1. ASCII's equivalent hexadecimal characters:

A = 41	J = 4A	S = 53
B = 42	K = 4B	T = 54
C = 43	L = 4C	U = 55
D = 44	M = 4D	V = 56
E = 45	N = 4E	W = 57
F = 46	O = 4F	X = 58
G = 47	P = 50	Y = 59
H = 48	Q = 51	Z = 5A
I = 49	R = 52	

2. Finder's existing command keys:

A	Select All
B	-----> available for use
C	Copy
D	Duplicate
E	Eject Disk
F	Find
G	Find Again
H	-----> available for use
I	Get Info
J	-----> available for use
K	-----> available for use (might conflict with Suitcase II)
L	-----> available for use
M	-----> available for use
N	New Folder
O	Open
P	Print
Q	-----> available for use
R	-----> available for use
S	-----> available for use
T	-----> available for use
U	-----> available for use
V	Paste
W	Close Window
X	Cut
Y	Put Away
Z	Undo

To make Finder command key changes, carefully pay attention to the following steps:

1. Make a copy of the Finder by selecting it and then selecting "Duplicate" from the File menu or 'doing' a command - D will work. The duplicate copy is named "Finder copy", which is fine for this exercise. You can also leave it in the System Folder.
2. Launch ResEdit 2.1, and then open "Finder copy". Once "Finder copy" is open, locate the resource named "fmnu" and open it. In the open "fmnu" resource window, you will see components of the

Finder's Menu. The components are:

- # 1252 = "File" menu
- # 1253 = "Edit" menu
- # 1254 = "View" menu
- # 1255 = "Special" menu
- # 1256 = "Labels" menu

3. In order to give “Make Alias” a command key of “L”, open “fmnu ID = 1252”. The following captured windows are a ‘before’ and an ‘after’ modification:

BEFORE

fmnu ID = 1252 from Finder					
000060	012D	7369	6E66	1002	0-sinf00
000068	4900	0847	6574	2049	l00Get l
000070	6E66	6F00	7370	7276	nfo0sprv
000078	1002	0000	0853	6861	00000Sha
000080	7269	6E67	C900	7364	ring...0sd
000088	7570	1002	4400	0944	up000000
000090	7570	6C69	6361	7465	uplicate
000098	7361	6C69	1002	0000	sali0000
0000A0	0A4D	616B	6520	416C	0Make Al
0000A8	6961	7300	7370	7574	ias0sput
0000B0	1002	5900	0850	7574	00Y00Put
0000B8	2041	7761	7900	7878	Away0xx
0000C0	7830	0000	0000	012D	x000000-
0000C8	6669	6E64	8110	4600	findA0F0

AFTER

fmnu ID = 1252 from Finder cop!					
000060	012D	7369	6E66	1002	0-sinf00
000068	4900	0847	6574	2049	l00Get l
000070	6E66	6F00	7370	7276	nfo0sprv
000078	1002	0000	0853	6861	00000Sha
000080	7269	6E67	C900	7364	ring...0sd
000088	7570	1002	4400	0944	up000000
000090	7570	6C69	6361	7465	uplicate
000098	7361	6C69	1002	4C00	sali00L0
0000A0	0A4D	616B	6520	416C	0Make Al
0000A8	6961	7300	7370	7574	ias0sput
0000B0	1002	5900	0850	7574	00Y00Put
0000B8	2041	7761	7900	7878	Away0xx
0000C0	7830	0000	0000	012D	x000000-
0000C8	6669	6E64	8110	4600	findA0F0

Find the line, in the first column, that begins with “000098”. The next four columns are in a hexadecimal format. In the 5th column, you will find, in the “before” capture, “0000”. Since the hexadecimal equivalent for an ASCII “L” is “4C”, replace the first 2 zeros with a “4C”. To do this change, place the insertion pointer on the right side of the 2nd zero, and then drag LEFT, highlighting the 2 left-most zeros. Then simply type in a “4” and then a capital “C”. The “After” capture shows what it should look like afterwards, without the highlighting or with anything selected. That’s it!!

Notice what happens when you selected the 2 hexadecimal zeros — a rectangle appears in the 6th column over its corresponding ASCII character.

Close “fmnu ID = 1252” window, and let’s go on...

4. After closing the “fmnu ID = 1252” window, open “fmnu ID = 1255”. This is the “Special” menu, and we will be adding an Command-“U” for the “Clean Up Desktop” menu item, a command-“T” for the “Empty Trash” menu item, a command-“R” for the “Restart” menu item, and a command-“Q” for the “Shut Down” menu item.

a. Upon opening “fmnu ID = 1252”, you will see a window like the ‘before’ window below (without the highlighting as shown):

BEFORE

fmnu ID = 1255 from Finder						
000000	0001	0009	0000	04E7	00000000	↑
000008	0000	0000	0753	7065	00000Spe	
000010	6369	616C	636C	6561	cialclea	
000018	4006	0000	0843	6C65	@000Cle	
000020	616E	2055	7000	656D	an UpDem	
000028	7074	8006	0000	0C45	ptA0000E	
000030	6D70	7479	2054	7261	mpty Tra	
000038	7368	C900	7878	7830	sh...0xxx0	
000040	0000	0000	012D	7365	00000-se	
000048	6A65	1002	4500	0A45	je00E00E	
000050	6A65	6374	2044	6973	ject Dis	
000058	6B00	7365	7261	1002	k0sera00	
000060	0000	0B45	7261	7365	000Erase	↓
000068	2044	6973	6BC9	7878	Disk...xx	□

In column 1, locate the line “000018”. In the 3rd column, select the 2 hexadecimal zeros as shown above. Since we are going to add a Command-“U” to the “Clean Up Desktop” menu item (you can enter you own command equivalent here if you wish), type in a “55”. The change will look like this:

AFTER

fmnu ID = 1255 from Finder cop!						
000000	0001	0009	0000	04E7	00000000	↑
000008	0000	0000	0753	7065	00000Spe	
000010	6369	616C	636C	6561	cialclea	
000018	4006	5500	0843	6C65	@000Cle	
000020	616E	2055	7000	656D	an UpDem	
000028	7074	8006	5400	0C45	ptA0T00E	
000030	6D70	7479	2054	7261	mpty Tra	
000038	7368	C900	7878	7830	sh...0xxx0	
000040	0000	0000	012D	7365	00000-se	
000048	6A65	1002	4500	0A45	je00E00E	
000050	6A65	6374	2044	6973	ject Dis	
000058	6B00	7365	7261	1002	k0sera00	
000060	0000	0B45	7261	7365	000Erase	↓
000068	2044	6973	6BC9	7878	Disk...xx	□

Continuing on to the other menu items...

- b. In column 1, locate the line "000028". It will look like the following 'before' capture:

BEFORE

fmnu ID = 1255 from Finder						
000000	0001	0009	0000	04E7	00000000	↑
000008	0000	0000	0753	7065	00000Spe	□
000010	6369	616C	636C	6561	cialclea	
000018	4006	0000	0843	6C65	@0000Cle	
000020	616E	2055	7000	656D	an UpDem	
000028	7074	8006	0000	0C45	ptAd000E	
000030	6D70	7479	2054	7261	mpty Tra	
000038	7368	C900	7878	7830	sh...0xxx0	
000040	0000	0000	012D	7365	00000-se	
000048	6A65	1002	4500	0A45	je00E00E	
000050	6A65	6374	2044	6973	ject Dis	
000058	6B00	7365	7261	1002	k0sera00	
000060	0000	0B45	7261	7365	000Erase	↓
000068	2044	6973	6BC9	7878	Disk...xx	□

In this case, we will be adding a command-"T" to the "Empty Trash" menu item. Select the 2 zeros in column 4, as shown above. Type in "54" for the hexadecimal equivalent for an ASCII "T". The 'after' capture looks like the following:

AFTER

fmnu ID = 1255 from Finder cop!						
000000	0001	0009	0000	04E7	00000000	↑
000008	0000	0000	0753	7065	00000Spe	□
000010	6369	616C	636C	6561	cialclea	
000018	4006	5500	0843	6C65	@0U00Cle	
000020	616E	2055	7000	656D	an UpDem	
000028	7074	8006	5400	0C45	ptAd000E	
000030	6D70	7479	2054	7261	mpty Tra	
000038	7368	C900	7878	7830	sh...0xxx0	
000040	0000	0000	012D	7365	00000-se	
000048	6A65	1002	4500	0A45	je00E00E	
000050	6A65	6374	2044	6973	ject Dis	
000058	6B00	7365	7261	1002	k0sera00	
000060	0000	0B45	7261	7365	000Erase	↓
000068	2044	6973	6BC9	7878	Disk...xx	□

Continuing on to the other menu items...

- c. In column 1, locate the line “000078”. It will look like the following ‘before’ capture:

BEFORE

fmnu ID = 1255 from Finder						
000028	7074	8006	0000	0C45	ptÄ0000E	
000030	6070	7479	2054	7261	mpty Tra	
000038	7368	C900	7878	7830	sh...0xxx0	
000040	0000	0000	012D	7365	00000-se	
000048	6A65	1002	4500	0A45	je00E00E	
000050	6A65	6374	2044	6973	ject Dis	
000058	6B00	7365	7261	1002	k0sera00	
000060	0000	0B45	7261	7365	000Erase	
000068	2044	6973	6BC9	7878	Disk...xx	
000070	7830	0000	0000	012D	x000000-	
000078	7265	7374	8100	0000	restÄ000	
000080	0752	6573	7461	7274	0Restart	
000088	7368	7574	8104	0000	shutÄ000	
000090	0153				0S	

In this example, we are adding a command—“R” to the “Restart” menu item. As in the above illustration, select the 2 hexadecimal zeros, and then type in a “52”. The ‘after’ capture looks like the following:

AFTER

fmnu ID = 1255 from Finder cop!						
000028	7074	8006	5400	0C45	ptÄ0T00E	
000030	6070	7479	2054	7261	mpty Tra	
000038	7368	C900	7878	7830	sh...0xxx0	
000040	0000	0000	012D	7365	00000-se	
000048	6A65	1002	4500	0A45	je00E00E	
000050	6A65	6374	2044	6973	ject Dis	
000058	6B00	7365	7261	1002	k0sera00	
000060	0000	0B45	7261	7365	000Erase	
000068	2044	6973	6BC9	7878	Disk...xx	
000070	7830	0000	0000	012D	x000000-	
000078	7265	7374	8100	5200	restÄ000	
000080	0752	6573	7461	7274	0Restart	
000088	7368	7574	8104	5100	shutÄ000	
000090	0153				0S	

Continuing on to the other menu items...

- d. In column 1, locate the line “000088”. It will look like the following ‘before’ capture:

fmnu ID = 1255 from Finder					
000028	7074	8006	0000	0C45	ptÄ0000E
000030	6D70	7479	2054	7261	mpty Tra
000038	7368	C900	7878	7830	sh...0xxx0
000040	0000	0000	012D	7365	00000-se
000048	6A65	1002	4500	0A45	je00E00E
000050	6A65	6374	2044	6973	ject Dis
000058	6B00	7365	7261	1002	k0sera00
000060	0000	0B45	7261	7365	000Erase
000068	2044	6973	6BC9	7878	Disk...xx
000070	7830	0000	0000	012D	x000000-
000078	7265	7374	8100	0000	restÄ000
000080	0752	6573	7461	7274	0Restart
000088	7368	7574	8104	0000	shutÄ000
000090	0153				0S

In this example, we are adding a command-“Q” to the “Shut Down” menu item. As in the above illustration, select the 2 hexadecimal zeros on line “000088”, and then type in a “51”. The ‘after’ capture looks like the following:

fmnu ID = 1255 from Finder cop!					
000028	7074	8006	5400	0C45	ptÄ0T00E
000030	6D70	7479	2054	7261	mpty Tra
000038	7368	C900	7878	7830	sh...0xxx0
000040	0000	0000	012D	7365	00000-se
000048	6A65	1002	4500	0A45	je00E00E
000050	6A65	6374	2044	6973	ject Dis
000058	6B00	7365	7261	1002	k0sera00
000060	0000	0B45	7261	7365	000Erase
000068	2044	6973	6BC9	7878	Disk...xx
000070	7830	0000	0000	012D	x000000-
000078	7265	7374	8100	5200	restÄ0R0
000080	0752	6573	7461	7274	0Restart
000088	7368	7574	8104	5100	shutÄ000
000090	0153				0S

- Quit ResEdit 2.1, and when asked if you want to save the changes you made, choose the “Yes” or “OK” button to save the changes you made.
- Go back into the System Folder, drag the original ‘Finder’ into another folder — a new ‘empty folder’ is fine as you will be trashing it later. Then, rename “Finder copy” to “Finder”, and then choose Restart from the “Special” menu.
- After the restart, find the “empty folder” where the original Finder is, and then drag it to the Trash Can, and then ‘do’ a Command-T. That’s all there is to it.

You may wish to make a copy of modified Finder, and store it on floppy for that rainy day when everything gets corrupted. This will save you the time from having to go back and re-do the changes you just made on a fresh copy of Finder.