Dear Macintosh Developer:

Thanks for your interest in **PatchWorks**, the developer's tool that builds updaters automatically. PatchWorks has many options, but only one function: to create updater applications for distribution to end-users over channels that may be non-secure (e.g., BBSs).

Before the advent of PatchWorks, creating an updater was a project in itself, one that consumed valuable programmer time which could more profitably be spent on revenue-producing projects. With PatchWorks, you create an updater in minutes. Since there's no coding or scripting, no bugs are introduced. Just fill in a dialog, and PatchWorks does the rest!

Distribute updaters frequently to reflect maintenance releases of your software, and watch your tech support and fulfillment costs fall dramatically. Most important, your customers will know you care.

Some highlights:

• Works with applications, INITs, cdevs, fonts, drivers, etc.

• Updaters support multiple old versions — a single updater can update various old versions to a new version.

• "Diffs" data to reduces updater size.

• Supports PPC native, fat binaries, 4D apps, etc.

• Customizable functionality & end user interface

• Updater distribution is **royalty-free**

• System 7 savvy, including Balloon Help™

Enclosed is a fully functional demo of PatchWorks. There is an expiration date (displayed when you launch it), but the demo will continue to function even after this date has passed. The catch? Updaters that you create with the demo will not function after the expiration date, regardless of the date on which they were created.

On the next page, you'll find a brief description of how to use the demo. If you have any questions, give us a call.

Sincerely,

David L. Ransen, Ph.D.
President
SNA, Inc.

Summary of Operation

When using PatchWorks, you will be supplying two kinds of information. First, you'll identify an old and a new version of the software to be updated, and a name and location for the updater that PatchWorks will create. Second, you'll supply information that will govern the behavior of the updater that will be created.

You'll tell PatchWorks to create the updater, then you'll quit PatchWorks once the updater has been built. To test the updater, you'll launch the updater, identify the old software that requires updating, and the updater will create a new file that will be identical to the new version of the software you identified above.

Before launching PatchWorks, make sure you have both an old and a new version of your product (application, INIT, any program containing a vers resource). Use Finder's Get Info box to lock both versions for safety. Make sure the two version are in different folders.

Launch Patchworks. The upper half of the window controls the operation of PatchWorks. The lower half controls the behavior of the updater application you will create.

Click "Old file…" and select the older version of your software. Click "New file…" and select the current version of your software. Click "Updater…" and choose a name for the updater application that will be created. Optionally, click "Log file…" to designate a text file that will contain a log of what PatchWorks does while building an updater.

The controls in the lower half of the window are optional, but here are some guidelines. The name, type and creator settings for "Old file" control a custom filter in the updater that will determine which files are displayed to the end user in the updater's Open File dialog box. For starters, leave the default settings. "Screen name" is cosmetic only: it controls the name that will appear in the updater's welcome screen; it defaults to the name of the Old file you selected in the upper half of the window.

The "Name" and "Mod date" settings for "New File" control the attributes that will be given to the new file created by the updater. For testing purposes, you may want to give a distinctive name to the new file, such as "MyApp from PatchWorks," to distinguish it from the original copy of the new version of your software.

Don't check "Copy all." This rarely-used feature is explained in the user manual.

Once you are satisfied with your settings, you can save them if you wish (use the "Save" command from the File menu). To build the updater, choose the "Build" command from the File menu.

Quit PatchWorks, and launch the updater application. Identify the old software that requires updating. In a few seconds, the updater will build a brand new file that should be identical to your new software.

There's much more discussed in the user manual, but these brief instructions should give you the idea.

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