

FileTyper

Version 4.1.2

by Daniel Azuma
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What is FileTyper?

Ever run into a file that you can't identify? When the icon is the generic file icon, and the Finder says it can't find the application that created it?

Or are you a "power user" who has to change file types and creators and Finder flags often, but can't stand to have to use a big program like DiskTop or ResEdit?

Or do you want much of the functionality of popular utilities like Hand-Off II without having to pay the big bucks?

Then FileTyper is for you! FileTyper is a small application that allows you to edit file types, creators, and Finder flags without having to open a large program. Just put FileTyper in a handy place (I usually keep it on the Desktop just above the Trash). Drag files and folders onto it, edit them, and click "Change." FileTyper 4.1.2 offers many features not found in other similar programs.

Also included with FileTyper is a utility with which you can create and edit custom "AutoTypers". For more information, see the MakeAutoTyper documentation. New with version 4.0 is an extension that adds a FileTyper command to the Finder's File menu, so you can have quick access to FileTyper without cluttering up your desktop. For more information, see the FileTyper Finder Menu documentation.

System Requirements

System 7 is required, though a scaled-down System 6 version is also included. FileTyper is 32-bit clean and compatible with all machines from the Mac Plus on, including the PowerMacs, and all currently released versions of System 7, including System 7 Pro.

Registration and Distribution

The first versions (1.0.x) of FileTyper were free, but, with the 2.0 release, I made a number of significant enhancements, so it was distributed as shareware. Version 1.0.1 is still free, but doesn't offer the power of later versions.

Version 4.1.2 is still shareware. Now, I don't believe in posting shareware reminder alerts all over my programs and making you click "not yet," or hiding features from people who don't pay. I feel this defeats the whole spirit of the shareware system, the honor system. My policy is simple. You are allowed to try out FileTyper for 15 days. If you don't think FileTyper is useful to you, trash it or pass it on to someone else and you owe nothing. If you keep FileTyper, you are expected to send \$10 US funds to me at:

Daniel Azuma
1449 Belleville Way
Sunnyvale, CA 94087-3807

USA

The \$10 fee entitles you to use the entire FileTyper package, which includes "FileTyper", "FileTyper for System 6", "FileTyper Menu", "MakeAutoTyper", and the four sample AutoTypers "TEXTtoMSWD", "GroupLock", "GroupUnlock", and "Vanish!".

Please print the registration form in the document "Registration Form." If you don't have access to a printer, that document will still tell you what information I need.

Site licenses are \$30. This fee allows free use of FileTyper on all machines at a single postal address. If you're registering a site license, mark the appropriate space on the registration form.

If you have already registered for an earlier version, your upgrade to version 4.1.2 is free.

In the past, I have offered to send the latest version of FileTyper on disk. I have found I've been unable to keep this up, so this option has been discontinued.

The FileTyper package may be distributed and uploaded to bulletin boards freely, but only in its entirety. Neither the package nor any of its components may be sold or bundled with any software that is sold, including shareware, without written permission. Any AutoTypers that you create can be distributed freely, but may not be sold or bundled with any software that is sold without written permission. The only exception is the case of media-related charges such as download fees or CD-ROM cost. For more information about AutoTypers, see "MakeAutoTyper Docs."

If you want to distribute FileTyper or any AutoTypers with a shareware or commercial package of your own, please contact me at the address at the end of this document. AutoTypers can be distributed with free software without specific permission.

Installation

Simply drag FileTyper to a convenient location. I usually keep it on the desktop just above the Trash. Put the "FileTyper Folder" folder into your System Folder or your Preferences Folder. It contains the preferences and help files for FileTyper, and may contain other files in the future.

If you are installing MakeAutoTyper or any custom AutoTypers, simply drag them to the most convenient spot.

If you've already installed prefs and/or help files for 3.x versions of FileTyper, you should trash them.

Special notes for version 4.0 users:

If you've already installed the FileTyper Folder for version 4.0, you should replace the entire old FileTyper Folder with the new one included in this package, as all the files have been changed. If you want to keep your custom pop-up menus, copy them from the old help file using ResEdit and paste them into the new "FileTyper 4.1 Pop-ups" file.

If you are installing the FileTyper Menu, drag it to your System Folder and allow the Finder to place it in the Control Panels Folder. If you are already using version 4.0 of FileTyper Menu, be sure you trash it. FileTyper Menu may behave strangely if two copies of it are installed at once.

Special notes for version 4.1.x users:

The changes between version 4.1 and 4.1.2 are minimal. You do not need to re-install any FileTyper Folder files. Just replace your FileTyper and MakeAutoTyper applications and your FileTyper Menu control panel with the new ones in this package.

Using FileTyper: the basics

This information has not changed between versions 3.1 and 4.1.2.

Simply drag files and folders onto the FileTyper icon. FileTyper will launch and present a dialog box letting you edit file types, creators, and finder flags. Click “Change” to make the changes or click “Cancel” to discard them. “Revert” returns to the original settings.

You do not need to close and re-open windows to see your changes; FileTyper causes the Finder to update its display immediately when you change creators or types. However, if you change any of the flags other than “locked,” you should clear the “hasBeenInitiated” flag also, or the Finder may not “see” what you did immediately.

If you drag more than one object onto FileTyper, FileTyper will let you edit them one at a time, first all the files, then all the folders. If more than one file or folder was opened, two more buttons will be active. “Change All” changes the current file or folder, plus all subsequent files or folders automatically. “Cancel All” is equivalent to clicking “Cancel” for the rest of the files or folders.

Clicking “Change All” in the files dialog will only affect the files waiting to be edited, not the folders. Similarly, clicking “Cancel All” will only cancel the rest of the files; the folder dialog will open next if there are folders waiting to be edited.

You can also change the file name from within FileTyper. This is useful for quickly renaming locked or nameLocked files. If you’ve opened more than one file and you’ve pressed “Change All”, the new file name will only affect the first file, since you can’t have more than one file of the same name in the same folder.

Using FileTyper: enabling and disabling

This information has not changed between versions 3.0 and 4.1.2.

If you’ve opened more than one file and you want to change only certain attributes and leave the rest alone, you can disable some of the attributes by holding down the option key and clicking. When the option key is down and the cursor is over something that can be disabled, it will change to a backwards arrow. Option-clicking one of the check boxes will gray it out. That attribute will then be ignored; it will not be affected when you click “Change” or “Change All”. Option-clicking it again will re-enable it. This will also work if you option-click the “Type” or “Creator” edit fields, but will not work with the file name field (because it only affects the first file anyway). If you want to disable or re-enable all items at once, click the “Disable All” or “Enable All” buttons. Option-clicking and the “Disable All” and “Enable All” buttons will only be available if more than one file is open.

For example, suppose you want to lock a number of files at once, while leaving the rest of the finder information alone. Just drag all the files onto FileTyper and set the locked attribute. Then gray out the two edit fields and all check boxes except “locked”, by option-clicking them. (Or, you may find it faster to click “Disable All”, which will gray out everything, and re-enable the “locked” attribute by option-clicking it. Finally, click “Change All”. Since only the “locked” attribute is enabled, FileTyper will not change anything else.

Using FileTyper: setting preferences

Items marked with three bullets (•••) were new or had changed in version 4.1.

This information has not changed between versions 4.1 and 4.1.2.

FileTyper 3.0 introduced a preferences dialog. With version 4.1, you can set a number of preferences

controlling how FileTyper works:

Warn before changing all: When this box is checked, an alert will be shown when you choose “Change All.” I included this in version 3.0 because the “Change All” function is dangerous and was irreversible. With version 4’s “Undo” feature, “Change All” is no longer irreversible (if undo is active), so you may want to leave this option off.

Auto-display “Open...” dialog: This is for those of you who want to use FileTyper as an application without using drag-and-drop. When this option is checked, if FileTyper was opened with a double-click instead of a drag-and-drop, the “Open...” dialog will appear automatically.

Make changes undo-able: When this option is checked, FileTyper’s undo feature will be active. See “Using FileTyper: the undo feature” later in this document for information on undo.

- **Calculate Folder Sizes:** When this option is checked, FileTyper’s will calculate and display the size of the contents of folders. Note that, as is the case with the similar feature in Finder 7, this process may take some time, especially with large folders.

Edit Files: When this box is checked, FileTyper will “see” files that you drop onto it. The only time you’ll want to uncheck this box would be if you wanted to drop a large batch of stuff onto FileTyper but only edit the folders. The setting of this box doesn’t affect the “Open...” dialog, only drag-and-drop.

Edit Folders: When this box is checked, FileTyper will “see” folders that you drop onto it. Just like in “Edit Files”, the only time you’ll want to uncheck this box would be if you wanted to drop a large batch of stuff onto FileTyper but only edit the files. The setting of this box doesn’t affect the “Open...” dialog, only drag-and-drop.

Open Only...: With these two buttons, you can tell FileTyper to scan for and open only those files and folders that match certain criteria. They will open a dialog box similar to the ones in MakeAutoTyper, which you can use to pick what kinds of items you want FileTyper to “see.”

Opening a folder edits...: This controls how FileTyper responds to opening a folder. You can set it to open just the folder itself, the folder and its immediate contents (those located just inside the folder), or the folder and its full contents (all files and folders contained within the folder, including those within subfolders). In FileTyper 4.x, the setting of this option affects the “Open...” dialog as well as drag-and-drop, so you can still edit folder contents from the “Open...” dialog. This is useful if you have to edit items inside an invisible folder.

If you hold down the option key when FileTyper is launching, the prefs dialog will come up immediately. This is useful if you want to set “Open Only” prefs on the fly as you open the files and folders.

The “Save” button saves your preferences in the “FileTyper 4.1 Prefs” file in the FileTyper Folder. The “Temporary” button saves the preferences in memory, but not to the file, so they will revert back to their original settings when you quit FileTyper. The “Save” button will not be available if FileTyper can’t find its prefs file.

Using FileTyper: Help options

Items marked with three bullets (•••) were new or had changed in version 4.1.

This information has not changed between versions 4.1 and 4.1.2.

FileTyper 3.0 introduced balloon help via a help extension. Under version 4.1, the help file is called “FileTyper 4.1 Help” and is located in the FileTyper Folder in the System Folder.

- The FileTyper Folder also includes the file “FileTyper 4.1 Pop-ups”, which contains the pop-up menus you can use to set type and creator. Note that the pop-up menus have been moved to this new file from the help file.

Those menus are customizable with ResEdit. To edit them, just open the help file (it’s a ResEdit document), and open “MENU” resource 1000 for types or 1001 for creators. You can add,

modify or delete items from these menus to suit your needs.

In the type and creator menus, the first four characters of the menu item must contain the type or creator code that you want to be associated with that menu item. If there are trailing spaces in the four-character code, they must also be included in the menu item.

For example, to create a menu item for text files, you can use:

“TEXT—a plain text file” in the type menu, which will map to type **“TEXT”**

Or suppose you wanted to create a menu item for the creator of MPW files, **“MPS ”** (with a space after the **“S”**). If you tried:

“MPS—creator for MPW” in the creator menu, it would map to **“MPS—”**.

The correct text for that menu item should be:

“MPS —creator for MPW” with a space after the **“S”**.

If you want balloon help with FileTyper, you should have the help file installed. If you think the pop-up menu feature will be useful, you should have the pop-ups file installed.

Do not rename any of these files. FileTyper will not be able to find them if they have been renamed.

Using FileTyper: memory considerations

This information has not changed between versions 4.0 and 4.1.2.

One problem you may encounter in running FileTyper is memory-related. FileTyper is designed to be able to act on many files at once, thus automating what may otherwise be a tedious task, and such large jobs may require quite a bit of memory.

FileTyper 4.1 comes pre-configured to use 60 kilobytes of RAM. This is adequate for most tasks that you might have FileTyper do. However, if you have a particularly large job, such as one involving editing folder contents, you may have to allocate more memory to FileTyper (perhaps 100K) using the Finder's **“Get Info...”** command. The easiest way to handle this is probably just to leave the memory allocation at 60K unless FileTyper complains that it has run out of memory (This is indicated by an error ID = -108).

The absolute upper limit on the number of files and folders that could be opened, present in versions 3.x, has now been removed. The number of items that can be edited is now limited only by memory constraints.

Some system extensions, like Super Boomerang 3.0.x–4.0.x, hog up much more memory than they should. According to a beta tester, Super Boomerang's **“find”** feature requires that you increase FileTyper's memory size to at least 85K.

Using FileTyper: the undo feature

This information has not changed between versions 4.0 and 4.1.2.

Operations by FileTyper can now be undone using FileTyper's **“Undo last change”** menu command in the File menu. When FileTyper performs a change, it logs that change in the prefs file. The Undo feature will take the information from the log and attempt to undo the operation.

Because the log is made in the prefs file, this operation is only available if the prefs file is installed in the FileTyper folder in the System Folder.

When undo is active, changing file attributes may be noticeably slower, especially when you're altering large numbers of files at once. In addition, the prefs file may get fairly large if you've just

edited large numbers of files at once. In such cases, you may want to turn undo off temporarily, using the preferences dialog.

Using FileTyper: other features

This information has not changed between versions 4.0 and 4.1.2.

FileTyper 4.x displays the Finder icon next to the type and creator fields, so you can see instantly what effect your changes to the type or creator will have. This is the icon corresponding simply to the type and creator of the file; it is not the custom icon that you might have installed using System 7.

After you edit the type and/or creator, you can click on the icon to see what effect the new type/creator combination will have on it.

Occasionally, the icon that FileTyper shows will not exactly match the icon that the Finder gives the file. This is usually because the Finder's icon is not quite up to date; the Finder is often slow to realize it if the desktop database has been changed. FileTyper's icon is the correct icon.

FileTyper also has a "Same as" button. If you press this button, FileTyper will prompt you to choose a file. It will then set the type and creator fields to the same as the type and creator of the file you select. This feature is often useful if you can't remember some obscure type/creator combination.

Using FileTyper: special notes for System 7 users

This information has not changed between versions 2.0 and 4.1.2

If you like, you can also double-click FileTyper to open it as an application. You can then edit files using the "Open..." menu command. This is useful for editing invisible files, and is also required for opening aliases.

If you drag an alias onto FileTyper, FileTyper will open the original file and not the alias itself. If you want to open an alias, open FileTyper as an application and choose "Open..." from the File menu. Then check "Open alias instead of original".

If you open a stationery pad, FileTyper will edit the original stationery pad, not a copy.

If you have a slow Macintosh or a slow hard disk, or you simply use FileTyper often, and you don't want to wait for FileTyper to launch and quit each time you edit a file, just double-click on FileTyper to open it as an application. Then, you can drag files and folders onto it without waiting for it to open, and FileTyper won't quit until you choose "Quit" from its menu. If you use FileTyper very often, you might consider putting an alias of it in your Startup Items folder.

Using FileTyper: special notes for System 6 users

*Items marked with three bullets (***) were new or had changed in version 4.1.*

This information has not changed between versions 4.1 and 4.1.2.

FileTyper is now System 7-dependent, and will no longer work under System 6. If you need to use FileTyper on a machine running System 6, you can use the application "FileTyper 4.1 for System 6," which is a System 6-only application that contains a subset of the features of FileTyper.

When you run FileTyper for System 6, an Open... dialog will be shown immediately. You can then choose which file or folder to open. After you edit your item, the Open... dialog will come up again, so you can open something else. When you are finished, click "Cancel" in the dialog to quit FileTyper.

You will not be able to open more than one file at once under System 6 because that feature requires some of System 7's enhancements to the file manager. So, FileTyper for System 6 does not include the "Change All" and "Cancel All" buttons, and you will not be able to enable and disable items.

- The only file in the FileTyper Folder that you might need under System 6 is the pop-ups file. The prefs dialog will not be available in FileTyper for System 6, but it is not necessary anyway because it controls features that are System 7-only. Under System 6, balloon help is of course not available, so the help file in the FileTyper Folder is not needed either.

FileTyper has no problems with memory constraints under System 6 because it doesn't open more than one file simultaneously.

Neither FileTyper Finder Menu nor MakeAutoTyper nor any AutoTypers will function under System 6.

If You're Having Problems...

System 7 users: There is one known problem with FileTyper, which is probably a bug in System 7. Trying to open "alias instead of original" on an alias that is in the Desktop Folder of a disk other than the startup disk will result in a file not found error (ID = -43). I believe this is a problem with the Standard File package in System 7, because I've noticed the same problem with ResEdit 2.1.1's open alias instead of original feature. If you have problems with this bug, move the alias off the desktop and try again. As of Hardware Update 3.0, this problem STILL hasn't been fixed. I sent in a report of this problem to Apple DTS when I first came across it, several years ago, but now it looks like System 8 will definitely have been released by the time it gets through all the bureaucracy.

AutoDoubler users: An incompatibility with AutoDoubler from Salient Software can prevent FileTyper from changing types and creators. A beta tester reported this problem with several 1.0.x versions of AutoDoubler, and it may occur with other versions as well. Because AutoDoubler also seems to prevent ResEdit's type and creator function from working, I believe this is a bug in AutoDoubler. If this gives you problems, you'll have to expand the file before using FileTyper on it. I have no information on more recent versions of AutoDoubler.

If drag-and-drop won't work: Desktop files have been a problem with Apple's System software since who-knows-when. Under System 7, screwed-up desktop files can prevent FileTyper's (as well as other programs') drag-and-drop from functioning. If FileTyper fails to accept drag-and-drops, try rebuilding the desktop. You can do this restarting and holding down the command and option keys until the dialog box appears. Note that because floppy disks don't use the new System 7 desktop files, drag-and-drop will not work at all if FileTyper (or any "drop-box" application) is on a floppy.

If you're running out of memory: Make sure FileTyper's memory size is set up to deal with the number of files you're opening, as outlined in "Memory Considerations." And be careful when you have "open folder contents" active—the number of files can pile up quickly. Also, some system extensions, like Super Boomerang 3.0.x–4.0.x, hog up much more memory than they should. According to a beta tester, Super Boomerang's "find" feature requires that you increase FileTyper's memory size to at least 85K. If FileTyper complains about an error ID = -108, it's a sign that you are running out of memory.

If you can't save preferences, or some other feature isn't available: Make sure you have the FileTyper Folder properly installed. It should be located either in the System Folder or in the Preferences Folder, and it should contain the help, preferences, and pop-ups files. Make sure these files are not renamed, and make sure the FileTyper Folder is not renamed, either.

Warning

FileTyper is a "power user's" program. It is a very powerful tool if used wisely, but can damage your

files if misused. Make changes to Finder information only if you're absolutely sure you know what you're doing. The programmer, Daniel Azuma, accepts no responsibility for any damages caused by use or misuse of this utility and makes no warranty, express or implied, concerning its operation or suitability for any task.

Version 4.1.2 Release Notes

Version 4.1 is a bug-fix upgrade from version 4.1.1. The changes are:

- Put the "Use alias instead of original" item back in the Open... dialog. (It was taken out by mistake in version 4.1.1.)
- Fixed a bug in the folder size calculator that sometimes caused FileTyper to search the "complete contents" when "immediate contents" was selected, if folder sizes were active.
- Added the necessary resources to MakeAutoTyper to make sure the Standard File icons appear in color under System Update 3.0.

The upgrade to FileTyper 4.1.2 is free to registered users of all versions since 2.0.

Version History

1.0	–	9/16/91:	This was the first version of FileTyper released.
1.0.1	–	10/14/91:	Fixed a bug that could cause types and creators to get corrupted if they contained invisible characters.
2.0	–	12/9/91:	Changed to shareware; added a check box for the locked attribute; added support for the required AppleEvents; added the ability to open many files simultaneously and edit them sequentially or as a batch; added the ability to edit folder attributes; enhanced the open dialog box to allow the opening of folders and aliases; added optional balloon help; improved handling of disk errors; fixed a bug that could, under extremely rare circumstances, inadvertently lock a file that had been canceled.
3.0	–	2/28/92:	Added the MakeAutoTyper utility; added the preferences dialog; added code to cause the Finder to update its icons, etc. immediately; re-implemented the rename files function; customized the System 6 Open... dialog for opening folders; "Enable All" and "Disable All" are disabled when only one file is open; FileTyper Help now has its own bundle instead of a System 7 custom icon; improved the interface; fixed a few non-fatal bugs.
3.1	–	4/10/92:	Improved preferences and fixed AutoDoubler problem with preferences dialog; improved handling of drops of file/folder mixtures; added data, resource fork size indicators; grays out OK button when volume is locked; fixed bug introduced in 3.0 that caused an error -43 when trying to edit a volume.
3.2	–	5/16/92:	Fixed stupid bug introduced in 3.1 that caused an error -35 when using "Change All" with folders; fixed bug that often caused drag and drop to fail on newly created AutoTyper; removed the MacWrite II docs to make the package smaller.
4.0	–	2/28/93:	Fixed rare bug causing garbage to show up in type or creator fields; added file filtering; option-dropping opens the prefs dialog; removed upper limit on number of files that could be edited; moved help and prefs files into FileTyper Folder; added undo feature; introduced FileTyper Menu control panel; added icon to FileTyper window; added pop-up menus; added "same as" button; improved interface.
4.1	–	8/20/93:	Added folder size indicator; fixed EvenBetterBusError crash introduced in 4.0; moved pop-up menu resources to "FileTyper Pop-ups" file; Fixed incompatibility between FileTyper Menu and AliasMenu.
4.1.1	–	4/30/94:	Fixed bug that sometimes caused crashes upon quitting MakeAutoTyper

- when the help file was not installed; fixed incompatibility between FileTyper Menu and SpeedyFinder, and the upcoming Aladdin Desktop Tools; finds FileTyper Folder in the Preferences Folder; added new e-mail address to docs, and removed disk option from registration form.
- 4.1.2 – 5/30/94: Put the “Use alias instead of original” item back in the Open... dialog; fixed a bug that sometimes caused FileTyper to search the “complete contents” when “immediate contents” was selected, if calculating folder sizes was active; added color standard file dialog resources to MakeAutoTyper (for SU 3.0).

Future Enhancements

Planned for the near future:

- I am currently porting the code to CodeWarrior C, and preparing a PPC native version.
- A possible fix for the lingering problems with Super Boomerang.
- More robust error checking, and easier localization.
- Complete rewrite of these aging documentation files.

Planned for the far future:

- Additional, more obscure, flags.
- Created/modified date editor.
- Edit pop-up menus without having to use ResEdit.
- Installer program; no more juggling “FileTyper Folder” files.

Any Questions?

If you have any questions, comments, or (aaargh!) bug reports, feel free to contact me at

e-mail: dazuma@cco.caltech.edu

(Yes, I do FINALLY have an Internet address.) E-mail to me may be delayed between mid-June and mid-September.

s-mail: Daniel Azuma
1449 Belleville Way
Sunnyvale, CA 94087-3807

One more thing: PLEASE do not call me at home unless you have a problem that absolutely ABSOLUTELY cannot wait. I've omitted my phone number from this document for a reason.

And finally...

Thank you to all the people who have sent in shareware registrations, and especially to those who have sent in helpful comments and suggestions. The list has grown too long to include here. It is this kind of feedback that makes shareware successful!