

Extension Shell

Quick Start

Unfortunately, there is no quick start... Extension Shell is intended for programmers writing System 7 Extensions. There are some sample Extensions, but nothing that you can really play with directly. See the end of this file for a description of each sample Extension.

If you've never written an Extension before, try and get hold of the documentation listed at the end of "Extension Shell 1.3 ReadMe". Print out the documentation and ReadMe files that come with Extension Shell, and sit down and read them before diving into the code. Most of the techniques you'll hear about are demonstrated in Extension Shell. Make sure you understand the concept of stand-alone code resources.

If you already know how to write Extensions, please take a look at the ReadMe files all the same. There's nothing too complicated, but they should let you see how Extension Shell works. After you've read them, try converting an existing Extension to Extension Shell. It shouldn't take too long - most of what you'll be doing is reorganising your code into separate code resources, and stripping out all the routines you've previously had to duplicate for each Extension.

Don't worry if things look too complex - they're actually quite straightforward. The best way to start is to take the sample Extension that's closest to what you're trying to write, and clone it. Change the #defines to suit your details, and compile it up.

Before you start compiling, place an alias to the ":Extension Shell 1.3 (Source):Extension Shell #includes" folder in your "THINK C:Mac #Includes folder". All of the projects depend on being able to include the files contained in this folder.

What can it do?

Extension Shell can help you install the following: Trap patches, Gestalt selectors, Shutdown tasks, VBL tasks, Low memory global filters, blocks of code, and Time Manager tasks.

For more details, see "Extension Shell 1.3 ReadMe".

To try out the sample Extensions, toss them into your Extensions folder and reboot. They're not terribly useful as Extensions, but they do demonstrate how Extension shell works. They are:

- Bell Test - Selecting "About..." from the Apple menu will play a sound.
- CircleMouse][- When the mouse button is pressed, the cursor will move in a tight circle, thus making it impossible to select anything... Put the Caps-Lock key on to stop the rotation.
- MacCough - Causes your Mac to cough quietly every 10 seconds or so.
- Quadra INIT - Selecting "About this Macintosh..." from the Finder will reveal that your Mac now thinks it's a Quadra 950...
- Shutdown Fade - Fades all of your displays slowly to black at shutdown. Not a terribly good idea for people without soft-power-off as they won't be able to see the dialog for restarting...
- WhatKey - Every character typed on the keyboard will be displayed to the left of the Apple menu.