

Documentation for A-D SlideShow

A "psuedo-system" for User Groups by Kevin Willey of Apple-Dayton UG
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BACKGROUND

A-D SlideShow, when correctly installed on a floppy disk, allows that disk to fool the Macintosh into believing that a valid boot disk has been inserted long enough to display a series of PICT resources. Once the 'slideshow' is over, the Mac will eject the floppy and reset. This can be a great service to User's Groups which distribute PD software on 400K floppies. You can now leave the proprietary Apple system files off of the disk while still providing information to the disk user such as club notes, announcements, software directories, etc... Especially appropriate are comments for the first time user explaining that this disk is not a valid boot disk and giving him/her instructions on how to boot the Mac. Much more instructive than the Sad Mac which normally greets those who try to boot off of non-bootable disks. The file also can be run as a normal application from the desktop to display the same series of PICT resources.

INSTRUCTIONS

This file is in a pre-release form so listen up close while we jump through a few hoops...

1. Create your pictures for display. Any graphic can be used as long as it can be copied to the Scrapbook. In order to work in A-D SlideShow it must be in PICT format. The recommended procedure is to copy your picture into the Scrapbook which will convert it to PICT form. The max picture size is directly related to the amount of memory in the Mac (i.e. 1Meg machines can display larger pictures than 512K.) I have to admit that I don't know what the maximum picture size is. If you boot a floppy with A-D SlideShow activated and get a crash, you probably have a PICT resource which is too large. This failure mode only occurs during boot. When A-D SlideShow is run as an application, the picture size need only be less than the screen size.
2. Modify the boot blocks of the disk you wish to install A-D SlideShow on. The default system file name must be changed to A-D SlideShow. This forces the Mac to run the INIT resources in the A-D SlideShow file. If the boot blocks haven't been initialized on the floppy, then you'll have to create them. This isn't a problem, the boot blocks can be created and edited using FEDIT. (There is another approach to the problem. The A-D SlideShow file can be renamed System. If a file named System is copied onto a floppy, the boot blocks are automatically generated. If you use this approach please give Apple-Dayton credit somewhere and don't change the ICON of the program or people may get confused.)
3. Use ResEdit to clear out all the PICT resources which are in A-D SlideShow (as always, USE A COPY OF THE FILE YOU WISH TO MODIFY!!!). Open up the Scrapbook file which contains your PICT resources and copy them one at a time into A-D SlideShow. Check and make sure that every PICT resource in A-D SlideShow is set to be purgeable. If this isn't done, I can guarantee a crash on boot-up. Once they are all installed, renumber them from 0 to N consecutively. PICT resource 0 will be displayed first followed by the rest in numerical order. Don't skip a number in the sequence. When this is done you can save and quit.

4. Reboot the Mac with the floppy. If you have problems check the boot blocks for the correct system file name, check the PICT resources in A-D SlideShow to make sure they all are purgeable and are numbered consecutively from 0 up, and if you still have a crash, reduce the size of the largest pictures you're using.

HINTS, TIPS, and MISC

The SlideShow is timed. Each PICT will be displayed for a period of time and then it will fade-out and the next will take its place. You can also click the mouse to skip to the next PICT before the time expires. After the last PICT has been displayed, the screen will fade to black. At this point in time, 1 of 2 things will happen. If you're running A-D SlideShow as an application, then you'll be transferred back to the Finder. If you were booting the Mac then the disk will be ejected and the Mac will be reset.

Because the time between PICTs may be long for some folks, I recommend that each PICT have a message at the bottom telling the user to click the mouse to go to the next screen. Along these same lines, the last PICT should probably provide a warning that the Mac is about to reboot itself and telling the user to reboot with a valid Apple boot disk.

Each PICT is automatically centered on the Mac's screen so you don't have to worry about placing the PICT.

The most likely problem is with PICT size. Mac+ machines don't seem to have any problem with large PICTs but 512K machines definitely do. I may be able to free up some additional memory for the PICTs in the next version. For now, use PICTs which will leave about 1 inch or more of space all around the screen borders.

If you have problems or suggestions, call me or send me some mail on Delphi. I'm working on a revised program which will automate the entire process and allow for more sophisticated animation and interaction. Speaking of the animation, I have to thank Chris Yerga for the Dissolve effect code which was published in MacTutor June 1986. I also have to send big thanks to BMUG for the ideas I got from their BMUG boot blocks.

This is a pre-release version of the program. I need your inputs in order to make the changes which will either make this program useful or relegate it to obscurity...