Randomizer

by Jon Pugh

This is the documentation for **Randomizer**, an INIT that, when be placed in the System Folder of an HFS startup disk, copies a random file from specified folders into specified files. For example, there is an INIT named **BeepInit** which replaces your beep with a piece of digitized sound. This would be the same every time unless you had a nifty program that would change it every time you reboot. Guess what **Randomizer** does.

Randomizer is useless by itself. Simply copying files is insufficient for any useful purpose. It is designed as a supplement to other programs. **Randomizer** is compatible with many other INITs. In fact, any INIT that uses a data file can be extended to use any number of files randomly.

There are a number of INITs out that **Randomizer** can enhance. Some that I know of are, **StartUpDesk** and **DeskPICT**, which keep a file as your screen's background; **SoundInit**, which plays a sound file upon system startup; **ShutDownSound INIT**, which plays a sound upon system Shutdown; **BeepInit** and **CheepBeep**, which replace your beep with a file of digitized sound; and **SoundMaster**, which can do all sorts of nifty sound things.

As a courtesy, I have included **StartUpDesk**, **SoundInit**, and **BeepInit** with this package. If you did not get them with this, please ask around for them as **Randomizer** will be useless without them.

Older versions of **Randomizer** do not copy the resource fork of a file, so they are useless on the Mac II which uses a PICT resource for color backgrounds. This version of Randomizer does copy the resource fork and is fully Mac II compatible.

Minimal Instructions

Place **Randomizer** and the other INITs you are using in your System folder. Be sure to include all the necessary data files and folders. When you reboot your machine, **Randomizer** will change all the files that it knows about so that the *next* time you reboot, all the data files will be different.

HFS is Required!

Randomizer needs HFS folders to isolate the files that it is to choose from. If you are running MFS (400K disks) then **Randomizer** will be useless.

Details

Randomizer requires a bunch of preparation for it to work. It has to have all the files and all the INITs in the System Folder with their data files and folders. The names of all of these are programmed into **Randomizer**, so it is important that you get them right. Of course, without the correct names, they won't be used by their respective INITs anyways.

Randomizer knows about these files and folders:

INIT Name	Data File Name	Folder Name
StartUpDesk	StartUpScreen	Screens
DeskPICT	StartUpScreen	Screens
SoundInit	StartUpSound	Sounds
BeepInit	BeepSound	Beeps
ShutDownSound INIT	ShutDownSound	ShutUps

You can make **Randomizer** use different files by using ResEdit to add names to the STR# resource numbered 2001 that can be found inside of **Randomizer**. The names are in the order, file name, folder name, file name, folder name, etc. Be sure to include a colon : in front of the folder name, like so **:Screens** or things will not work properly. These partial pathnames can be more complex if you want to put things in different places, but they should be with respect to the System Folder since that is where **Randomizer** is. I haven't tried moving them out, so this is uncharted territory.

There is also a PNT resource that contains the top left point of the display box. By changing this one, you can change the location of the display. Its coordinates are in global screen coordinates. You may have to work to change this though since I have not included a TMPL resource to edit them.

Tricks and Options

You knew that couldn't be all, didn't you? Well it isn't. I have added a few other capabilities.

You can skip the randomizing/copying process, which can be somewhat time consuming, by holding down the Option key. Start holding it down as the **StartUpSound** plays and keep it down until the menu bar appears. This also is a good way of keeping the present setup for the next reboot.

Randomizer will show you the names of the files it is copying. This will be the setup next time you reboot. If you do not want to see this information, hold down the Command key after the **StartUpSound** plays and it will stop showing it to you. Hold the key down next time to make it start showing it again.

You can also make **Randomizer** show you the setup that it made for next time by holding the Command and Option keys down while double-clicking on **Randomizer**. It will use a much bigger window and New York 24 if it is present or Geneva 24 if it isn't. This isn't very sophisticated, so beware.

Startup Sets

You can create sets of files that will go together. If you have a screen, sound, and/or a beep, you can give them all the same name (but leave them in the different folders) and once **Randomizer** picks one it will pick the others. For example, if you made a screen, sound, and beep all named **Batman** then when it picked the screen, it would also pick the same sound and beep. You do not need to have complete sets though, although they must be grouped Screen & Sound or Sound & Beep if you only have two. The most common use I forsee is the Screen & Sound combo. For example, the Batmobile and the sound of Batman and Robin that goes with it.

This has one possible drawback, a random screen can still use the grouped Sound or Beep. To make a Sound or Beep only able to be used with it's group, I added a naming convention. Any files ending in .Only (any capitalization) can only be used as a combo. You cannot group Sounds together this way, you <u>must</u> use a Screen or the files will never be used. In this way I have **Batman.only** in my Screens and Sounds folders. They will only be used as a group, never seperately.

To disable any of the INITs (StartupDesk, SoundInit, BeepInit, or Randomizer), merely drag them out of your System folder and reboot. Put them back and reboot to enable them again.

Where did this stuff come from?

   The BeepSound INIT and the StartUpSound INIT are from MacNifty. They were released into the public domain. I have included them here for your convenience.
   StartupDesk came from the fantastic fingers and mind of Darin Adler. It's free from him and included here for your convenience.
   The Batman icon came from the Icon Hacker without permission.
   The Randomizer INIT was written by me in Lightspeed Pascal. I have released it into the public domain so feel free to give it to your friends, but please give them this document so that they will know about the nifty features. And, of course, tell yor friends what a nice guy I am for doing this for free. I even give free phone support if you call me at the number below.

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