

Squeaky Toy Deluxe

by Alex Metcalf

"Wow, that's annoying!"

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- Please read the known issues and disclaimer, both at the end of this document, before use.
- In the unlikely event you are using version 1.0, please quit it before running 1.0.1.
- Ideally, copy the application from the disk image to your hard disk before running it; see the known issues for a lengthy explanation!

What is Squeaky Toy Deluxe?

Squeaky Toy Deluxe is one of those pieces of software that makes you feel glad to be alive. Just double-click it, and your mouse turns into a squeaky toy. Not in the literal sense, but your Mac does make an alarmingly loving sound every time you click and release the mouse button.

It only runs on OS X. If you have OS 9 or earlier, you need to download the original Squeaky Toy (from my web site, see below).

Squeaky Toy Deluxe also has features. If you double-click it when it's running, it asks you whether you want the squeaking to stop (see 'known issues' at bottom of this document). Let's face it, not many applications can compete for features with Squeaky Toy Deluxe.

If you're worried that it could do some nasty things to your Mac, relax. It's just an application that runs 'in the background', and as such it doesn't show up in the dock. It does nothing complicated at all, and does not reconfigure your system in any way or install any software (apart from a small preferences file in your Preferences folder).

By the way, it's free. Would anyone pay for **this**? If you **would**, don't let me stop you. Use the button on web site for making a donation.

So was there an original Squeaky Toy?

Yes, there was a Squeaky Toy extension for OS 9 and earlier, and it was released in April 1997. You can download it from my website:
<http://www.alexmetcalf.com/toy>

[So why is this one deluxe?](#)

It works on OS X. How much more deluxe can you get!

[Why did you write Squeaky Toy?](#)

Original Squeaky Toy:

I was lying awake at four in the morning on Sunday (Easter Sunday) when I decided that I wanted to make the mouse squeak. I'd been at a meal that night with some family friends, and their dogs had a squeaky newspaper toy which was called something like the "Doggie News". Anyway, the coffee dessert kept me awake, and as I was lying in bed waiting for the caffeine to filter through (get it? filter? never mind) I realised this extension would be remarkably easy to write. I wrote the code the next day, and cycled to the shops to buy the squeaky toy on the Tuesday for 79p, about \$1.20. On Tuesday evening, Squeaky Toy was born.

Squeaky Toy Deluxe:

OS X has a solid UNIX core, a beautiful Aqua interface, and a wealth of high quality applications. However, most people will agree that it lacks a decent squeaky toy. So, after another trip to the local pet shop (this squeaky toy cost 99p, about \$1.50) last week and a few hours (well, now it's days) of coding, Squeaky Toy Deluxe was born.

[I've just tried Squeaky Toy Deluxe. It's fun for ten seconds, then acutely annoying.](#)

I know. But it's **great!**

[Sometimes I click and it doesn't squeak.](#)

You're not pressing the mouse button hard enough.

[Don't give me that poor excuse.](#)

Okay. It uses a standard WaitNextEvent loop that checks the state of the mouse twenty times a second. So, if your down-click sometimes happens quicker than that, it won't pick it up.

[You could have used Carbon Events with a toolbox-level event handler, or a kernel extension, or blah blah blah...](#)

Oh, shut up. It's only for fun. And in actual fact, it's quite hard to avoid using polling for this kind of application. Believe me, I've been researching. If you know how I can do it a better way, please let me know.

Someone has installed it somehow on my Mac, and now it runs every time I use my Mac! I want to get rid of it.

Open the 'System Preferences' application, go to 'Login Items', and remove Squeaky Toy Deluxe from the list of applications that open automatically when you 'log in' (the login procedure may be happening automatically for you when you turn on your Mac; it's an OS X thing). Then, log out and in again or restart (which quits all open applications) to stop the squeaking.

May I say now that I do **not** condone or encourage the installation of Squeaky Toy Deluxe on other people's machines without their knowledge and/or consent.

What else have you written?

Well, I never thought you'd ask. My more recent work was writing Ambrosia Software's Bubble Trouble X with David Wareing:

<http://www.ambrosiasw.com/games/bt/>

If people use my software and enjoy it, I'm happy.

So, is this all you have to offer?

I'm just about to start work in usability and accessibility. My life endeavour is to make technology more accessible and enjoyable for everyone.

Away from the screen I enjoy squash, cycling, and playing my beloved alto sax.

How do I get in touch?

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Changes from 1.0 (to this version, 1.0.1)

- More detailed information on known issues so people understand why Squeaky Toy Deluxe might not be working for them
- Two or three very minor changes to the application

Known issues

There are currently three known issues with Squeaky Toy Deluxe, see below for detailed explanations! From what I've seen, the number of happy users far outweighs the number of users with problems, but if you do have a problem with Squeaky Toy Deluxe, **please** get in touch at squeakytoy@alexmetcalf.com and I'll see if I can fix it for you (and thus for other users in the future).

1. When you open Squeaky Toy Deluxe you should get a little welcome dialog, unless you have run it before and turned on the option saying "Don't show this message again". However, one user (that I know of), running the toy for the first time, didn't receive this message (or any error messages), and the squeaky toy didn't work. If this happens to you, please get in touch so I can understand (and hopefully fix) the problem! In the mean time, if you have this situation, the Squeaky Toy Deluxe application may be open but not working, so see the messages below on how to quit Squeaky Toy Deluxe with Process Viewer.

2. Once Squeaky Toy Deluxe is running, double-clicking it should tell Mac OS X to send it a message (an Apple Event) saying it's been reopened. That is how Squeaky Toy Deluxe knows it's been opened again, and so that's when it comes up with a dialog box with the option to quit Squeaky Toy Deluxe.

If you get this "do you want to quit" dialog and hit 'quit' but the squeaking is still happening, you probably have two copies of Squeaky Toy Deluxe running! In all likelihood, you downloaded Squeaky Toy Deluxe, opened the copy on the 'disk image', then copied it to your hard disk, and then tried to open the copy on your hard disk to stop it, when in actual fact you opened the second copy so that two copies of Squeaky Toy Deluxe are now running! A future version will address this situation and only allow one copy to run at once, but for now, re-open not only the copy on your hard disk (to stop that one) but also the one on the 'disk image' (to stop that one too).

3. If Squeaky Toy is running and you don't get the dialog box at all when you

re-open squeaky toy, you've either accidentally just opened a second copy (see above!), or you have moved or renamed Squeaky Toy Deluxe since you opened it. When you move or rename an application in OS X, it is no longer sent 'reopen' messages when a user re-opens it, so Squeaky Toy doesn't know you want to quit it. This is a Mac OS bug that I will be reporting to Apple. In the mean time, as a workaround to this problem, rename it back to what it was (or move it back to where it was) when you opened it, and then re-open it: you should get the quit dialog. Alternatively, use the process viewer method below to stop it.

In any situation, if the normal way of quitting Squeaky Toy Deluxe doesn't work, open up the 'Process Viewer' application, which is in the "Utilities" folder in your Applications folder. Select "Squeaky Toy Deluxe" from the list (if it's not in the list, and you haven't renamed it, then it's not open, and you can quit Process Viewer), choose "Quit Process" from the Processes menu, and click the Quit button. Squeaky Toy Deluxe should be removed from the list, and the squeaking (if there was any) will stop. If that doesn't work, select it again and choose "Quit Process", but click "Force Quit" instead. Hopefully you should never have to Force Quit it, but it is here for completeness! Even if by this point you're fed up of Squeaky Toy, please get in touch and help me solve the problem for the benefit of future users.

[Is there a disclaimer for Squeaky Toy?](#)

Alex Metcalf is not responsible for the loss of and/or damage to anything resulting directly or indirectly from the installation and/or use of Squeaky Toy Deluxe.