TattleTale

Desk Accessory V1.5.4

NOTES: Once again, this version of TattleTale comes with new icons. John Thatcher of AOL disliked the other ones enough that he came up with some new ones. I agree with him, they are a big improvement! If you are running System 7 and the finder does not automatically update the icons for you, TattleTale can do it for you. As you start up TattleTale, simply hold down the "<option> d" key combination until a dialog comes up which asks if you wish update the desktop database. If you hear a "beep" during updating, the updating was not performed for various possible reasons. In this event, your desktop database will be left in its original state and the program will continue. If updated, the new icons will appear after a subsequent machine restart. This method avoids having to rebuild your desktop (which is very time consuming on a large disk) just to update icons.

On another subject, I am considering removing the ability to write reports to a tab-delimited text file due to the considerable size that it adds to the program. If no one is using this feature, it makes no sense to pay extra to download it. (Not to say that I won't add other features to take its place!) If anyone depends on the tab file capability, please let me know.

Also, if you have a machine with a PDS slot and the Nubus/PDS menu item is not available to you, please let me know your Machine type **and** ID# (first item in the CPU Related report). This will help me with updates as I am having a hard time getting new machine IDs from Apple.

• PURPOSE:

TattleTale provides very complete information about your computer and its system related software. The information can be viewed on screen by category, printed, written to a standard text file in standard or a special Bug Report format, or output in database readable format. As such, it also provides a record of your system configuration that can be used for reporting problems to software and hardware manufacturers, to compare configurations across multiple computers, or to simply learn about your machine. Information categories covered are: the CPU, Volumes + Drives, Monitors, Nubus Devices, SCSI Devices, ADB Devices, Serial Ports, General System Attributes, Startup Environment, System Files (System, Finder, INITS, CDEVs, RDEVs etc.), DAs, Fonts, Drivers, Open Files, Processes, Applications, and Traps. In addition, it enables you to Mount Volumes and Close Files that were left open. The information provided varies greatly among these categories and is best understood simply by going to the dialog window and browsing through the above categories.

NOTE: The Traps information is valuable for programmers who need to determine if a particular combination of system software and hardware implements a certain Trap.

• SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS:

TattleTale is compatible with the Mac+ and newer machines and requires System 4.2 or higher. It is also compatible with System 7 and takes advantage of some of its enhanced system information features as well as balloon help. Note that there is a marked difference between the information available under system 4.2 compared to the 6.X systems and higher.

TattleTale is available in two versions. This document describes the Desk Accessory version. As now configured, this version operates without any problem under all known configurations. There is, however, an Application version of TattleTale available for those who prefer applications or who experience problems with the DA version.

TattleTale.Traps expects to be found in the System Folder, but you can rename it or put it anywhere you want. However, you must describe this change for TattleTale as described under Trap Related Features below.

• GENERAL OPERATION:

TattleTale consists primarily of a menu and a modeless dialog window. When you initially run it, the dialog window is visible and the first category of information is already displayed in a scrolling list. Subsequent categories are selected from the **Pop-up Menu** above the list. Categories which are not available for a given computer and system software combination (e.g. Nubus on a Mac+ or Processes under Uni-Finder in System 6.X or lower) are dimmed and cannot be selected. The **Close** button closes the window but leaves TattleTale active. **Get System Info** in the Main Menu will re-open the window. You can **Quit** completely from the Main Menu or by using the Close Box in the TattleTale window title bar. Definitions related to each report are available by pressing the **Definitions** button in the main dialog. Printing is also controlled from the Main Menu. From here you access **Page Setup** and two printing

choices. You may print the list which is currently displayed (**Print Current**) or you may select **Reports**, which prints the reports which you select.

Selecting **Reports** invokes a dialog box. To print a selection of reports in screen format, select the reports which you want to print, select the "Print Std Reports" button, and select "OK".

Reports also provides the capability of writing the reports to a Standard Text File or a Tab-delimited Text File. Selecting "Write Std Reports to Text File" simply combines and directs chosen reports in screen format to one standard text file for subsequent editing.

Similar to this is the "Write Bug Report to Text File" option. Associated with this option is the "Basic Bug Reports" button which chooses the standard reports that would be helpful to the person to whom you are reporting a bug. Other reports can be added to the selection as conditions warrant. Another button, "Bug Explanation…" accesses a dialog which allows you to describe the problem with the program and also allows you to save and load the specific text which you have created for future reference.   A third related button, "Bug Reported By", allows you to specify standard information related to you, the reporting individual. Your personal information remains permanent across invocations to TattleTale.

"Write to Tab-Delimited Text File" is used for creating a database readable file. The default format is a Field Name line followed by a line of associated Data, all separated by tabs and ending in a carriage return. All lines are preceded by two additional columns: 1) the name of the report from which the data originated, and 2) the Chooser name of the reporting computer. In the case of reports which include multiple items which are the same (e.g. Drives, Fonts, DAs, etc.), there is a Header line and a Data line for each member of the group. Where there is preliminary information for a group (e.g. in the Serial Ports report), the name of the preliminary report has a "-H" appended to it so that you know what set of fields will be following. You may eliminate Field Name lines completely by checking the "Data Only" box and you may eliminate data interpretations (items enclosed in parentheses) by checking "Remove (Data Interpretations)". Also note that the Screen, Printed, and normal Text File reports include only those items of data which are appropriate in a given situation as opposed to the tab-delimited Text File reports which include all possible fields for consistency in reading the data into a database. It is suggested that you experiment with the generated Tab-delimited Text File before designing any reports which might use this data.

The **Specify Volume** menu item applies only to the Applications reports available from the Pop-up menu. Specify Volume allows you to restrict the volumes for which the applications will be reported. There are times when you will want to refresh the information in your window. Obvious refreshes happen automatically, but you can do it manually simply by re-selecting the menu item from the **Pop-up Menu**.

Help, consisting of this text, is available from the TattleTale menu.

• *TRAP RELATED FEATURES:*

TattleTale provides information regarding Traps in three different formats. **Traps UnAvailable** lists those "official" Apple Traps (as listed in the MPW Traps.p file) that are not available on your particular combination of computer and system software according to A-Trap Number and Name. **Traps Available (Named)** lists all those "official" A-Traps which are available on your computer according to A-Trap Number, Name, and Address. **Traps Available (UnNamed)** list all other Traps which, through testing each Trap, are shown to be "active" - that is, they do not have the _Unimplemented Trap address assigned to them. As can be seen from this list, there are many implemented "unofficial Traps". The primary reason for this is that many of them are used by internal routines which Apple reserves the right to change in the future or they represent routines which can be accessed through more than one Trap designation. This is particularly true of Traps in the $A000-$A1FF range. You can use the actual listed addresses for comparison purposes. In reference to this, note that Apple written documentation describing Trap designations differs from those in the MPW Traps.p file.Also note that you can tell which traps have been patched by comparing the ROM Base address found in the CPU Related listing. If the address is lower than ROM Base, it has been patched. However, due to differences in the way environments are handled between System 6, Multifinder, and System 7, and depending upon which heap contains TattleTale, you need to be careful in terms of how you interpret this information.

To allow for changes in the Trap list over time, Commands to manipulate this file are located under the Main Menu . The "official" Traps are included with TattleTale as TattleTale.Traps. If you simply wish to change the name or location of TattleTale.Traps, rename it and/or put it where you want, and then select **Change Database File** and you will be prompted to find the file. The new name and/or location will be used until you decide to change it.

In regard to changing the contents of the file, they are originally derived from MPW's Traps.p file which TattleTale converts into it's own database format. If you want to see the format of the original file, **Database to Text File** will prompt you to convert the database file to a text file which you can then view and/or modify on any text editor. If you wish to merge a modified Traps text file with the database, select **Merge Text File**. This will incorporate any additions included in the file and ignore any

duplications. If you have direct access to an up-to-date Traps list, you can use **New Database File** to completely regenerate the database.

• Change History:

1.1
- Printed Reports are now date and time stamped and left margin has been increased to 1".
  (Requested by: Robert Seaver)
- The main dialog window will now grow and shrink vertically using the grow box (Requested by: Neil
  Shapiro)
- The "Missing Traps" label has been changed to "UnAvailable Traps" to better reflect that the Traps
  are not "missing", but just don't happen to be active in the combination of system version and
  hardware that you are using. (Lazy way out of a request by Neil Shapiro)
- Report data can now be output to a tab-delimited text file, with and without headers and data
  interpretations. The "Print Several" menu item has been changed to "Reports" and the text file
  option is available under that menu heading. Available and UnAvailable Traps lists cannot be
  output to the text file at this time. (Requested by: Kerry Clendinning - and many thanks for
  coaching me through this!)
- Fixed bug which ignored certain DA's which do not follow correct naming rules, i.e. the first
  character in the name must be a null character. All DAs currently available to the system are now
  correctly listed.
- Worked around bug in the Gestalt Trap call which incorrectly reports that a Mac IIfx does not have a
  SCSI port.
- Rewrote code to avoid Gestalt Trap call regarding Nubus Slot count.
- Added Chooser name to CPU Related report.
- Fixed Bug in ADB Report regarding device type. (Reported by: Judd Stiff,GTE)
- Added ability to report on MultiFinder processes on systems earlier than 7.X

1.1.1
- Fixed occasional problem with all but Title Bar of dialog window disappearing when the user
  attempted to adjust the grow box. (Reported by and critical debugging assistance by: Jerry
  Goldstein)
- Added color and active fields to the Monitors category.

1.2
- Added ability to stream reports in screen format to a text file for subsequent editing.
- Added Bug Report format which facilitates that preparation of bug reports. This report is also
   streamed to a text file for subsequent editing, printing, or uploading.
- Added Close Box to dialog which has same function as Quit from the menu.
- Added interpretation of Font style in Font Report.
- Added SCSI DMA, SCC IOP, and SW Power Off indicators to the CPU Report.
- Fixed several bugs in the Tab-Delimited File.
- Added addresses of principal tables and PPC Toolbox info to the System Report.
- Added additional Quickdraw info and Fixed bug in Quickdraw version number.
- Fixed Help Balloons related to dialogs.

1.3
- Fixed problem with Help Balloons flashing when the cursor was in a non-TattleTale item.
- Added item to Driver list to reflect not only the original status of flags but the status as of the time
   that the report is generated. (Idea courtesy of Miles Waldron)
- Changed the Serial Port report to better reflect situations when AppleTalk is connected. (Suggestion
  courtesy of Don Paul)
- Improved ability to more accurately reflect the status of the Nubus/PDS Slots.
- Changed method and report format for identifying devices connected to the ADB port.
- Fixed bug in the SCSI report which sometimes duplicated device information from one device to the
   next. The SCSI report also now reports the SCSI #0 drive as internal. (Bugs reported by Don Paul)
- Updated the Traps file to reflect Traps missing from MPW's Traps.p file. (Information courtesy of
   Allan Muluf)
- Updated information to correctly identify PowerBooks, Quadras, and Mac Classic II.
- Fixed bug in Font report by gathered both BitMap and TrueType fonts into a combined family and
   altered the format to accommodate this change.

- Created Application version of TattleTale for System 7 users.

1.3.1
- Minor bug fixes

1.3.2
- Fixed bug related to more than 20-25 members of a font family freezing program. (Bug reported by Dave Lamkins)

1.4
- Added report of Applications which are High Level Event Aware that are located on any mounted volumes.
- Changed method of reporting Traps to both supply actual addresses and better differentiate between official and unofficial Traps. (Based upon query related to Trap discrepancies from Bruce Hobson)
- Fixed Nubus listing related to the reporting of slots in the IIci. Also changed method of reporting slot designations. (Bug reported by numerous people)
- Updated machine recognition to include the LC II and Quadra 950. Also fixed bug related to reporting the IIsi and LC.
- Clarified the SCSI attributes portion of the Miscellaneous Attributes section in the CPU Related report to better describe the type of SCSI which is implemented. Also clarified the SCC attribute in this same section.
- Expanded Volume and Drive report to include various Volume Specific attributes available under System 7.
- Updated TattleTale.Traps file.

1.4.1
- Fixed bug which caused crash in 32 bit mode. (Bug reported by Frank Braun, Fixed (with much appreciation from me) via keen eye of Bill Monk!)

1.5
- A full set of icons was added to this DA version of TattleTale to complement those in the application version. They are used under System 7 if TattleTale is taken out of its suitcase and used from the Apple Menu, directly from the desktop, through an alias, etc.
- Changed Help Button to Definition button which provides definitions for each category of data items. General Help, as contained in this document, is available from the menu and, to a limited extent, from help balloons (under system 7).   (Requested by Ulf Wostner)
- Added capability to list Applications, their version numbers, and their location. Both the Applications and the HL Applications choices are now in a submenu in the popup menu. (Requested by Steve Stearns)
- In conjunction with the "Applications" category, an additional main menu item was added called "Specify Volume", explained above.
- The Traps reports were all moved to a submenu in the popup menu.
- The screen position and size of the TattleTale dialog is now remembered across invocations.
- The CPU information category has been somewhat reorganized and additional sound related information is available.
- The Volumes+Drives information has been reworked to show removable media drives that are connected but that don't currently have a volume mounted in them and are also not entered in the drive queue. Some device drivers omit themselves from the drive queue when no volume is mounted and this attempts to bypass that shortcoming.
- Numerous problems with the Nubus report were corrected. Most problems revolved around a bug in the universal ROM which shows that built-in monitor SResources are active on machines that don't even have Nubus slots. This was worked around and the presentation of slots contents was improved. The listing also now shows the active SResources for each card. (Powerbook bug reported by Jeff Harrow)
- The System Related report was reorganized to better reflect manager organization.
- The System Files report was improved to better reflect files which are currently affecting the operation of the operating system.
- Fixed problem with LC II designation. (Bug reported by Thayer Healy, Bob Bezilla,Chuck Freeman)
- Fixed bug related to cutting and pasting in the "Bug Reported By" dialog. (Bug reported by John Culp)
- Fixed bug which caused the Traps report to hang when a trap was patched in a particular fashion.

(Bug reported by John Culp)
- Fixed bug related to and end of file error during the HL Applications report. (Bug reported by Bob Wiseman)
- Updated Traps file to reflect new System 7.1 Traps.

1.5.1
- Some of the problems that I thought 1.5 corrected in the Nubus/PDS report were not. They are hopefully corrected now. If you run into problems that are inconsistent with the information in the Nubus/PDS Definitions, please let me know. (Bugs reported by Bob Nichols and John Thatcher)
- The driver number was added to the Monitor report
- ROM Base was added to the CPU Related report
- Category and Type translations for various Nubus Boards were added. If you have a board that only shows a number for the sResource Category or Type, please let me know the numbers and what the board does so that I can update the interpretations.
- The CPU Report nows checks for the presence of a built-in modem in the portables
- A bug was fixed that could have caused a crash while closing an open file.
- A bug was fixed that caused a crash while closing and then opening the TattleTale window several times, then accessing the popup. (Bug reported by Mate Gross)
- The ROM version number was corrected.
- The Chooser name was moved from the CPU report to the System Related report.
- A bug which caused certain SCSI devices to drop off the bus when SCSI was selected was fixed. (Bug reported by Keith Bumgarner)
- The icon set was changed again based upon icons sent to me by John Thatcher. Thanks, John!
- Added Extended ISO ADB Keyboard (ID=5), to ADB Report. Code reported by ARI Kontiainen
- Added WACOM Tablet ID to ADB Report. Code reported by Bruce Hobson
- Several other minor modifications
- Thanks to Keith Brenner, John Thatcher, and Keith Bumgarner for testing this version

1.5.2
- Once again, there was a problem with the Nubus/PDS listing. A bug was fixed which prevented the listing from occurring on machines with a system less than 7.01 and no PDS slot. (Reported by Paul Amon)
- The DA listing was re-activated under system 7. (Requested by Paul Amon)
- The Heap and Application requests for memory were accidentally commented out in version 1.4.1. They are re-activated under 1.5.2 (Reported by Lorca)
- Fixed incorrect report of current address in the ADB listing (Reported by Bruce Hobson)
- Several other minor modifications

1.5.3
- Changes to allow incremental updating of TattleTale via an updater (Coming soon!)
- Updates for current machines
- More minor bug fixes which appeared in 1.5.2
- Cosmetic fixes

1.5.4
- Added "real" expanded version Numbers to drivers when known, particularly in relation to AppleTalk (Requested by Tom Evans)
- TT no longer crashes on the SE with a Mobius '030. Turn OFF the "Copy ROM to 32-bit RAM" setting. (Fix thanks to Dan Delamatta, a.k.a. Ezwal)

Future Plans
- Add capability to examine the file information for any file and view/modify its flags.
- More dynamic recognition of INITs/Extensions which have loaded
- Remove length limitation on generated lists
- PLEASE let me know of any changes/requests which you may have

Remaining Requests
- Remove "◊" markers as they are distracting. The listing started out without the markers and was confusing. I guess you'll have to trust me on this one.
- Remove form feeds when multiple reports are printed as it wastes paper. This has been addressed by allowing any selected reports to be streamed to one text file for editing and continuous printing.

<u>Miscellaneous</u>
- • I have had several reports of TT not running on Mac SE with a Mobius '030 accelerator. The problem has been largely solved through the efforts of Dan Delamatta who did some detective work on his Mobius '030 SE. It turns out that if you turn OFF the "Copy ROM to 32-bit RAM" setting, all works fine!
- • I have had one report that the "Max Open Files" information under the System Startup listing is incorrect. Actually, all values in this listing are read directly from the Boot Blocks on your boot drive and are meant to reflect what is recorded there. This is the information used to configure your machine on startup, and in most cases will not change during the current startup of your machine. There are, however, some INITs like "Up Your FCB's" which dynamically change the number of file control blocks as you use your machine. If you want a current reading of the maximum files currently allocated you must refer to the CDEV controlling that INIT.
   I have had similar comments related to the SystemHeap Size number. Under System 7, this number is managed automatically and this initial size is meaningless. In systems less than 7, this number is meaningful and can be adjusted with the use of shareware utilities such as HeapTool. Generally speaking, in system less than 7, you should have 15-20% of your heap free to help guard against crashes.

- • **<u>NOTICE:</u>**
      This software is FreeWare to the extent that I do not expect any direct remuneration. However, there are many worthwhile non-profit organizations that really need your help, whether in the form of time or money. I ask you, if you find TattleTale of use, to please give to an organization of your own choosing in an amount greater than you might normally. If you use TattleTale frequently over a long period of time, please consider giving more than once.
The program and the TattleTale name are copyrighted and credits and all documentation must be kept with the program. No modifications of any kind, other than the use of included dialog boxes, may be made to TattleTale.   TattleTale may be freely distributed at no charge to the user except media costs or normal downloading charges. Any inclusion on media greater in capacity than 1.4 MB must be approved in advance. TattleTale is distributed with no warranties, implied or expressed.

- • A special thanks to Dick Hodges for his help in the original beta testing.
- • A special thanks also to Onset Computer Corporation which has granted permission for the use of their "TattleTale" Trademark.

Please send questions, comments, suggestions, problems, etc. to:

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