DragAnyWindow documentation

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Introduction

OragAnyWindow is a way cool control panel that enhances the look and behavior of window dragging. When you drag a window's title bar and Solid Dragging is active, the whole window image is moved instead of a dull-looking window outline. If the Update Windows option is also active, all windows are updated on the fly without waiting for you to release the mouse. Not as fast as the BeOS, but definitely better than the standard MacOS behavior!

DragAnyWindow also allows you to easily move any kind of window, including dialogs, alerts, standard "Open" and "Save" dialogs, game windows and other non-movable windows. It lets you bring back to the desktop any window that has gone out of sight, or center the front window on the main screen with a single keystroke. These options are very useful for old applications designed for the 9" screen (which often use fixed windows) and for moving modal dialogs and windows behind them. This is what you see when you drag a modal dialog with DragAnyWindow (unless Solid Dragging is active):

DragAnyWindow gives you three different ways to change a window's position. A drag takes place when you click on any part of a window while holding the drag keys down; a gray outline follows the mouse until the button is released, then the window is moved to its new location. This works on both frontmost and background windows, as long as they belong to the active application. If the window is not visible, you may force it to jump to the current mouse location by holding down the jump keys and clicking on any part of the screen; the frontmost window is immediately centered around the current mouse location and keeps following the mouse as a gray outline until the button is released. The last way to get your window where you want it is to center it on the main screen with a single keystroke.
Please note that jump and center only work on the frontmost window. If there are other windows in front of an invisible one you won't be able to move it, so try closing them before.

Instructions

You may configure DragAnyWindow by opening its control panel; the following options are available:
[Drag] The Drag checkbox lets you turn window dragging on and off; the modifier key checkboxes let you choose which modifier keys will activate window dragging upon a mouse click. Please note that the command key checkbox can't be unchecked because dragging background windows wouldn't work without it.

(Jump] Works pretty much like Drag, except you can check or uncheck the command key checkbox as you like.

[Center] The check box lets you turn the hot key on and off. Clicking on the key combination field brings up a dialog where you can change the hot key itself.

[Solid Drags] When this option is checked, a solid shape replaces the usual outlined frame when dragging windows.

[Update Windows] This lets the system update all windows while you drag, without waiting for the mouse button to be released. This feature is not available for drags that were forced with the Drag or Jump modifiers described above.

[+ button] Click this button to change the Update Windows delay, i.e. the time between two window updates when you drag a window around. If you have a fast machine, you'll want a small delay so that windows are updated more frequently. Because window updates take a longer time on slow machines, you'll want to increase the delay if your Mac is not a speed demon.

[Show startup icon] If this checkbox is on, DragAnyWindow shows an icon during the startup process.

[Exclude] This button brings up a dialog where you can inspect and modify the list of applications that are excluded from DragAnyWindow's solid and live dragging features. You may add more applications if you find out that they misbehave or crash when you move their windows.

Installation

System 7 and later: Move the DragAnyWindow control panel to your Control Panels folder (inside the System folder) and restart your Macintosh. Open the Control Panels folder and double click on DragAnyWindow's icon to configure it.

System 6: Move the DragAnyWindow control panel inside your System folder and restart your Macintosh. Open the Control Panel desk accessory to configure it.

> DragAnyWindow only uses about 5K of system memory on 68K Macs and 9K on Power Macs.

Version history

♦ 4.5 - Updated for Mac OS 8.5.

4.3 - Added an option to exclude selected applications from the solid and live dragging features. Found a work-around for an incompatibility with some Microsoft applications such as Excel. Fixed a minor problem with desk accessories.

♦ 4.2.1 - Fixed a minor problem that occurred when moving the mouse to the menu bar while dragging windows.

♦ 4.2 - Added support for the new MacOS 8 Finder. Solid dragging no longer interferes with floating palettes.

♦ 4.1 - A major update! Windows can now be updated while you drag them, without waiting for the mouse button to be released. Solid dragging also works with programs that implement floating palettes. The Control Panel interface looks much better.

4.0 - Added solid dragging options. Switched the payment method to Kagi. Recompiled with CodeWarrior 11.

♦ 3.2.1 - Recompiled with CodeWarrior 9 and updated documentation.

3.2 - Reduced memory requirements to 1.5K for 68K Macs and 4K for Power Macs (used to be 3K and 6K); added support for the INITGestalt 1.0 proposal by Jeremy Roussak and Rene G.A. Ros.

- \diamond 3.1.1 Optimized PowerPC code, added pictures and a contents menu to the online docs.
- 3.1 FAT version! Installs fat patches on Power Macs to run at top speed in all situations.
- ♦ 3.01 Recompiled with latest version of the compiler and updated documentation.

♦ 3.0 - Added a hot key to center the front window on the main screen (thanks to Gary S. Huvard for the suggestion).

♦ 2.0 - This version was completely rewritten and uses a different method to work its magic. The Finder and modal dialogs can no longer see DragAnyWindow's mouse clicks.

1.1 - DragAnyWindow can now bring invisible windows back to the desktop; the key combinations may be configured in the control panel.

♦ 1.01 - Added support for system 7 default items calls.

1.0 - First public release on 3"1/2 Mac Disk Magazine.

Distribution

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