Introduction to BBEdit

Text Editors and Word Processors

Text Editors are differentiated from word processors by their performance and by the features they offer.

The term "text editor" refers to an application which is used strictly for editing and transforming text. The term "text" is used to describe a stream of characters (letters and numbers, as well as special symbols); lines are separated by a carriage return (the character generated by typing the "Return" key on your keyboard).

A "word processor" is best defined by example: applications such as Microsoft Word, MacWrite, and FrameMaker are word processors (although these days, the line between word processors and page-layout programs is getting blurry).

Word processors offer an array of "powerful" features such as automatic text wrapping and pagination, embedded graphics, multi-column formatting, style sheets, footnotes, endnotes, spelling checkers, grammar checkers, and live hyphenation. (The term "powerful" is marketing hype; "enabling" might be better, if it didn't sound like psychobabble.)

Text editors, on the other hand, are much leaner. They usually include a facility for changing the display font of the entire document, and that is the extent of their text formatting abilities. Because of reduced overhead, text editors are usually faster at display and scrolling than word processors. Text editors often contain features that aren't found in word processors, such as multi-file search and replace, line-oriented text manipulation, and more esoteric types of text transformation.

Text editors usually have a much smaller memory footprint than word processors; by example, the Microsoft Word 5.0 application occupies 850K on disk, and requires 1MB minimum partition size to run, with 2MB the recommended size. BBEdit 2.2, at this writing, occupies about 200K on disk, and requires 300K minimum to run, with 512K the recommended size. In this age of cheap RAM and disk storage, these differences may not seem significant, but a smaller footprint often means the difference between being able to run on a 1MB Mac Plus or not. For this reason, many people are turning to text editors for use as scratchpads and for basic text composition.

Text editors are also used heavily by programmers. Because of their line-oriented nature, program source files are unsuited for editing with a word processor. Also, most development environments on the Mac these days have text editors built in; this ready availability of an editing facility for source files means that there is no incentive for programmers to use anything else to edit source files, in spite of the fact that they often gripe about the limitations of the built-in editor.

BBEdit is a text editor.

By the definition above, BBEdit is not a word processor, because it doesn't include any of the "powerful" formatting features of word processors. It is perfectly suited to the high-performance display, editing, searching, and transformation of text files. It does include a few display and formatting features, but this is not its main focus. Through its interface with the dominant development environments on the Macintosh, BBEdit provides an excellent substitute for those environments' built-in editors.

Feature Overview

BBEdit offers the following functionality which is unique among available Mac text editors:

- **Support for MPW™'s ToolServer™.** ToolServer is an application which provides the ability to run MPW shell scripts and tools without requiring the use of the MPW Shell itself. This means that you can now use BBEdit as the basis for all of your text editing, application building, and so on without MPW's memory and disk footprint. Also, because the MPW script and tool services are managed by a separate application, you won't have to reserve large chunks of memory for tasks which you may only use some of the time.

- **Support for the MPW "411" on-line Macintosh programming reference.** This support is provided through ToolServer.

- **Importing and Exporting of foreign file formats via the Claris XTND™ mechanism.** BBEdit ships with XTND translators for MacWrite™ 5.0 and MacWrite II, and can use any other installed translators. (Symantec GreatWorks™ 2.0 ships with many translators, including some for Microsoft Word and most other popular word-processor formats.) This capability enables you to read files that are stored in any word processor format for which there exists a Claris translator, even if you don't have the application that created it. You can also export BBEdit-composed plain text files to any format for which there is a Claris translator.

- **Support for On Location™ for text searches.** On Location 2.0 has the ability to be used as a Apple Event-driven text search engine. BBEdit takes advantage of this ability to speed up multi-file searches.

- **Stationery documents.** You can create a stationery document with BBEdit; whenever you open that document with BBEdit, its contents, format information, and window position will be used to create a new untitled window. You can also create a "global" stationery document which will be used as a template for all new windows.

- **Open Several.** This variation on the standard "Open…" command enables you to open multiple files at once from multiple locations in the file system. You can also specify aliases to files, and those aliases will be resolved all at once.

- **Powerful multi-file search** (there's that word again). BBEdit offers the usual multi-file search, in which a disk directory is scanned and the files are opened one at a time; however, BBEdit can also display the search results in a window for easy browsing (and selected entries in the window can be opened for display). The search can also be limited to files that are already opened for editing in BBEdit, or to files which were already found in a previous multi-file search. BBEdit also offers multi-file replace capability for automated "seek and destroy" operations.

- **Built-in compare utility** for determining and viewing the differences between any two text files.

- **Zero cost.** BBEdit is free, with no qualification. It's not shareware, and it's not commercial.

BBEdit also offers the following :

- **High quality.** BBEdit has achieved a remarkable level of stability for freeware; it has received years of in-house and external testing. The user interface is the result of extensive user feedback and polishing.

- **File size limited only by available memory.** BBEdit's default partition size is 512K of RAM. This can be set as low as 300K, to make BBEdit the ideal constantly-resident editor for small to moderate tasks, or turned up as high as necessary to edit many large files or perform large-scale search-and-replace operations. If you're running under System 7.0, BBEdit automatically takes advantage of available system memory, so that you don't have to adjust its partition size to edit large files.

- **No hard limit on number of files open.**

- **Easy manipulation of multiple files at once.** The "Open Several..." command makes it possible to open multiple files from different folders at once, and the Save and Print commands can operate on all open files at once.

- **Pattern ("grep") searching.** Matching patterns can be constructed so that strings other than exact literal matches can be found and replaced; for example, converting Pascal comments to C comments, or converting C++ comments to C comments.

- **System 7 awareness.** Besides supporting all of the basic System 7 functionality such as 32-bit mode, virtual memory, and the like, BBEdit also takes advantage of specific System 7 functionality wherever possible in order to either improve performance or to improve its appearance. This is done without sacrificing System 6 compatibility. BBEdit also includes help balloons for most of its menus and dialogs. Some of BBEdit's advanced features, such as the ToolServer and On Location interfaces, require System 7.

- **High performance.** Try and enjoy.

Distribution

A Note about Shareware vs. Freeware

I have released a number of shareware programs over time, and I have found that the cash return is so small as to be useless. From a user's point of view, I object to being "guilt-tripped" into sending some amount of money for a program, and I object to being told that "If you use the program for 15 days you <u>must</u> pay the shareware fee". I can see no justifiable reason to expect others to do what I'm no longer willing to do. For these and other reasons, I am releasing BBEdit as "freeware": I ask for no money for the right for others to use it and give it away. My reward will come, hopefully, in seeing BBEdit being used by people who value its utility.

Some Minor Legal Stuff

Although BBEdit is free, it is not "public domain". It is copyrighted, and the copyright will be enforced whenever appropriate; therefore:

- The source is not available.

- BBEdit cannot be sold, either by itself or in combination with any other product, without my express written permission.

- If you're a user group which is publishing a CD-ROM or floppy collection, you may include BBEdit and all of its included files without restriction, save that the original package is included. Contact me for up-to-date versions and information.

- If you're a hard disk company which distributes PD, shareware, and freeware on your disk drives, you're welcome to distribute BBEdit. Contact me for up-to-date versions and information.

- Commercial publishers and distributors of CD-ROM software collections may not distribute BBEdit on CD-ROM without my express written permission.

- BBEdit may be posted on an information service which charges its users for general connection time and downloading, but it may NOT be posted to an information service which will charge for the specific right to download BBEdit, without my express written permission.

- BBEdit may be given away as a support utility for a package which is itself to be given away. People who need to distribute BBEdit as a support utility should contact me for up-to-date versions and information.

BBEdit is copyright ©1992 by Richard M. Siegel. All rights reserved.
Questions? Problems? Praise? Suggestions? Want to be a beta site?
Address correspondence to:

Rich Siegel
1 Larkspur Way #4
Natick, MA 01760

Internet/Usenet: siegel@world.std.com

If you need an up-to-date version, send written correspondence with a stamped, self-addressed floppy mailer, and either a floppy or $5.00 to the above address.

Road Map

This manual is divided into sections, each of which describes a separate part of BBEdit's functionality.

- "Installing BBEdit" provides instructions on how to install BBEdit on your system.

- "User Interface Notes" describes various aspects of BBEdit's general behavior.

- "Working With Files" discusses how to open, save, import, export, and otherwise manipulate text files.

- "Editing" describes BBEdit's editing functionality, and how to use it to best advantage.

- "Searching" describes BBEdit's search and replace functionality, including multi-file searching and grep.

- "Preferences" covers the Preferences settings.

- "BBEdit and ToolServer" discusses how to set up ToolServer and BBEdit, and how to use ToolServer from BBEdit.

- "BBEdit and XTND" discusses how to set up and use the XTND translation system.

- "BBEdit Extensions" describes how to install the extensions that come with BBEdit, and (for programmers) how to write additional extensions.

- "Working with Windows" describes the commands under the **Windows** menu which are useful when working with large numbers of open windows.

- "Miscellaneous Ramblings" covers various features and topics which don't fit into any of the above categories.

The rest of this chapter describes user-interface conventions used throughout BBEdit.

Conventions Used in the Manual

Note: a point of particular interest; a Note may advise you of some particular aspect of BBEdit's behavior which you should be aware of.

Easter Egg: a "lucky find"; Easter Eggs are usually "power user" features or other tricks which can streamline working with BBEdit.

Dynamic Menus

Some of BBEdit's menu commands are "dynamic"; they change if you hold down the Shift or Option keys while the menu is pulled down. You can also combine Shift or Option with a command-key sequence; for example, if you pull down the "File" menu and hold down the Option key, "Save" becomes "Save All". If you type Command-Option-S, this has the same effect as holding down the Option key, pulling down the menu, and choosing "Save All".

Here is a list of the menu titles, item names, and the commands that change meaning.
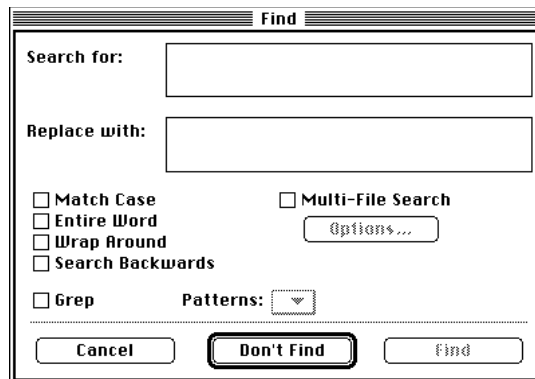
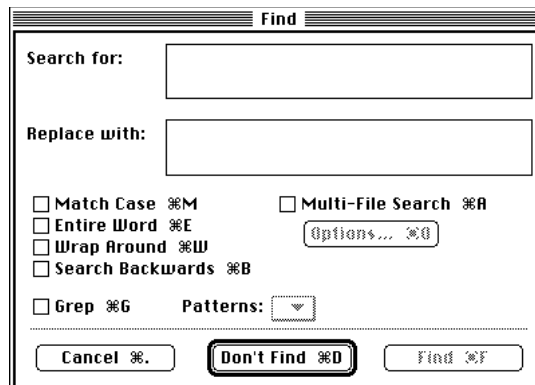| Menu	Item	Shift/Option	New Name	New Meaning
File	Close	Option	Close All	Closes all open documents
	Save	Option	Save All	Saves all unsaved documents
	Save As...	Option	Save As Selection...	Uses selection as default name for Save As...
	Print...	Option	Print All...	Prints all open documents
	Quit...	Option	Transfer...	Run another application
Edit	Cut	Option	Cut & Append	Cut & Add to Clipboard
	Copy	Option	Copy & Append	Add to Clipboard
	Select Line	Option	Select Paragraph	
Text	Twiddle	Option	Twiddle Words	Exchange words
	Shift Left	Shift	Shift Left One Space	
	Shift Right	Shift	Shift Right One Space	
	Wrap...	Option	Wrap	Wrap with current settings
	Zap Gremlins...	Option	Zap Gremlins	Zap with current settings
	Entab	Option	Entab Selection	
	Detab	Option	Detab Selection	
Search	Find in Next File	Option	Open All Matches	Find in Next File until no more found

Dialog Box Command Keys

Most of BBEdit's dialog boxes support command-key equivalents for their controls. All of them support the following conventions:

- Typing Return or Enter is the same as clicking on the button with a heavy black border around it.

- Typing Command-Period or hitting the Escape key is the same as clicking the "Cancel" button in any dialog that has one.

- In any dialog that has an edit field, you can use the Cut, Copy, Paste, Clear, and Select All commands on the Edit menu to affect the current edit field.

To see the command-key equivalents for a dialog's items, hold down the Command key. After a brief delay, the equivalents will appear next to the items. This delay is controlled by the "delay before repeat" setting in your Keyboard control panel. Here's the "Find…" dialog, with the Command key up:

and with the Command key down:

The delay in making the key equivalents visible is so that you can quickly type a command-key sequence if you know it, without inducing distracting flicker.

Moveable Dialogs

When you're running under System 7, most of the dialogs that BBEdit displays will have title bars. You can drag the dialogs to any convenient location, or even switch to another application while these dialogs are up. When you dismiss a dialog, BBEdit will remember its location in the BBEdit Prefs file, so that the next time the dialog comes up, it will be in the same location as before.