MacCheck: Operational Overview (8/93)

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TOPIC ---

This article is an operational overview of Apple's MacCheck software.

Several other articles in the Tech Info Library describe how you should respond
to specific messages from MacCheck.

DISCUSSION ---

Launching MacCheck

When you launch MacCheck, a splash screen appears detailing the initialization
processes that MacCheck performs while launching. MacCheck's primary task
during launch is gathering profile information and checking for multiple System
Folders.

Launch time can vary greatly. For example, on a new Macintosh LC III,
MacCheck takes about 1 minute to launch. On a Macintosh Quadra 950 with 400MB
hard disk and 8,000 files, MacCheck takes approximately 5 minutes to launch.

If you want to speed up the launch process by approximately 20 seconds,
press the Space bar when the splash screen first appears. This tells MacCheck
not to profile modems or check "slower" SCSI devices, such as DAT tape drives.
MacCheck will then display a "•QuickBoot•" message.

If you want to quit MacCheck during the launch process at any time, type
Command-period.

Accessing Profile Information

MacCheck stores the collected profile information in three log files:
• System Info Log
• Additional System Info Log
• Application and Font Info Log

To view the profile information placed into these logs, select the log you want
from the Windows menu.

Starting Logic Board and File System Tests

To begin the logic board and the file system tests, click the Test button or
choose Test (Command-G) from the Diagnostics menu. When testing is completed,
MacCheck stores the results in a file named "Test Results-1". You may rename
this file by choosing "Save Results As" from the File menu.

Getting Help

Consult the Help menu or click the Help button if you have questions about the
information in the System Info, Additional System Info, or Application and
Font Info logs. Help also provides suggestions and troubleshooting tips for any
problems MacCheck finds.

Balloon Help is also available. Choose "Show Balloons" from the ? (Balloon
Help) menu.

Using MacCheck Menus

• The File Menu: MacCheck logs are saved as individual documents, so the File
  menu items behave in similar ways as the File items in other applications,
  such as TeachText. As with TeachText, there can be only one open document
  at a time. Below are the menu items for the File menu:

  - New Results: Clears all the logic board and file system test information
    stored in the results file; does not clear the profile information after
    the bullets ("•••…") that MacCheck gathered during the launch process.

  - Open Results: Opens an existing "Test Results-1" log. MacCheck reads the
    contents in the four logs that were saved into that results file.

  - Save Results: Saves the results log, System Info log, Additional System
    Inf" log, and Application and Font Info log to "Test Results-1").

  - Close: Hides the front-most log or closes the "Help-Topics" window, if it
    was the front-most window. To make a log the front-most window, use the
    Windows menu and select the log you wish to view.

  - Print Results: Prints the front-most log. You also can choose to print any
    of the other three logs from the print dialog box.

• Diagnostics Menu:

  - Test:. Starts the logic board, file system, and System file checking tests.
    MacCheck performs the check for multiple System Folders only when first
    launched. Once MacCheck begins testing, the "Test…" item is dimmed.
  - Stop Testing: Enabled when testing is in progress.

• Windows Menu: When you select an log window in the Windows menu, MacCheck
  will bring that log forward, making it the front-most window. If you have
  viewed Help, but not yet closed the "Help-Topics" window, you can also select
  the "Help-Topics" item from the Windows menu.

• Help Menu and Help Window: When you click the Help button in the main
  MacCheck window, or select "Topics" from the Help menu, MacCheck displays a

window containing eight Help topics; each topic consists of one or more
pages.

Note: When running MacCheck on a Macintosh Plus, SE, Classic, or Classic II,
the "Help-Topics" window becomes a "modal" dialog box due to screen space
constraints.
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