Suzie
by Chris Silverberg

What is it?

Suzie is a utility that performs several user management functions for TeleFinder™ sysops. Suzie was designed to be used manually, with Apple©Events, or in a Tabby™ LaunchNext chain.

Suzie can perform the following tasks:

1. Stat files: Four different stat files can be generated. These are "User Stats," "Top Uploaders," "Simple Top Uploaders," and "Freeloaders."

2. User deletion: Users that have not logged onto the BBS for a specified number of days can be automatically deleted from the TeleUsers file. A log will be kept of who was deleted in case the sysop needs to recover an entry.

3. Automatic User Import: Group Edition Host has a feature of being able to import new users that have logged into the text interface. User Manager is capable of importing these users when the sysop wishes. Suzie can also do this, and do it automatically.

4. Group File Adjusting: You can setup Suzie to change the group file for a user based on uploads and downloads. If the user has a good ratio between the two, the user will be assigned a "good group." If the user has a bad ratio, the "abusive group" will be assigned.

A tour of Suzie

I think the best way to show you what Suzie can do is to take you on a tour of Suzie and show you what the settings mean.

Before we begin the tour, backup your TeleUsers file. As a sysop, you should regularly be backing up your TeleUsers file anyway, but because Suzie may modify your TeleUsers file, now is definately the time to make that backup, just in case.

You can put Suzie anywhere you'd like. It doesn't have to be in the same folder as your BBS, but that might be a good place to put it nevertheless. Double click on Suzie to begin.

Once Suzie is running, there will be four menus. The Apple menu, File, Edit, and Settings. For now, we'll be concerned with the Settings menu. This is where you'll setup Suzie. Your settings will be saved between sessions. (A preferences file is in the System folder, or the Preferences folder under System 7.)

The Settings Menu

1. Stat Files

When you choose the first choice, Stat Files, you'll be presented with the window below. The checkboxes on the left are for creating the various Stat files.

```
┌─────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┐
│  ≡≡≡≡≡≡≡≡≡≡≡≡≡≡≡≡≡≡≡≡≡ Stat File Settings ≡≡≡≡≡≡≡≡≡≡≡         │
│                                                               │
│  ⊠ User Stats file                  Creator: │LCLB│           │
│  Path: │Users stats                              │            │
│                                                               │
│  ⊠ Top Uploaders file               Creator: │LCLB│           │
│  Path: │Top Uploaders                            │            │
│                                                               │
│  ⊠ Simple Top Uploaders file        Creator: │LCLB│           │
│  Path: │Simple top uploaders                     │            │
│                                                               │
│  ⊠ Freeloaders file                 Creator: │LCLB│           │
│  Path: │Freeloaders                              │            │
│                                                               │
│                              ( Cancel )  (( Save ))           │
│                                                               │
└─────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┘
```

The first file is User Stats. This file contains a listing of all users. For each user the file will show last logon date, total number of calls, amount in uploads, amount in downloads, number of public messages posted, number of private messages sent. File transfers are given by kbytes, or if necessary, Megabytes.

USER STATS

User Name	Last On	Calls	Ul's	Dl's	Pub	Pri
Andy Dunkman	04/27/92	843	2M	16M	30	56
Anita Yezet	04/27/92	20	5k	137k	0	18
Ann Nuuver	12/13/91	22	0k	0k	0	0
Bob Sandfer	04/28/92	137	0k	8M	0	0
Bob Thertski	04/26/92	65	14k	1000k	0	1
Brad Parker	04/18/92	121	322k	8M	11	19

The second file is Top Uploads. This file contains a list of the top uploads on your BBS, ordered by how much data was uploaded:

TOP UPLOADERS

User Name	Last On	Ul's	Dl's	Pub	Pri	Calls
Chris Silverberg	04/28/92	3M	2M	38	63	1384
Andy Dunkman	04/27/92	2M	16M	30	56	843
Kevan Yards	04/28/92	1M	4M	10	4	368
Carol Ramboli	04/09/92	1M	0k	0	1	90
John Justaguy	04/26/92	718k	0k	1	2	42
Lori Richards	03/10/92	484k	0k	0	0	13

The third file is Simple Top Uploaders. You're probably wondering why this is necessary? Well, I wanted it for use on my BBS... so everyone has it. This file is the Top Uploaders with just the names listed.

TOP UPLOADERS
=============

Chris Silverberg
Andy Dunkman
Kevan Yards

And the last file is Freeloaders. It lists the users who have poor upload-to-download ratios. These entries are in order by name, and not by the degree of the offense. We'll go through how to modify who appears on this list later on.

```
FREELOADERS

User Name               Last On  Calls  UI's  DI's   Pub   Pri
-------------------------------------------------------------------
Anita Mundi .................... 04/27/92   20     5k   137k    0    18
Bob Coateau .................... 04/28/92  137     0k    8M     0     0
Bob Thatcher .................. 04/26/92   65    14k  1000k    0     1
Brad Parker .................... 04/18/92  121   322k    8M    11    19
```

For each file, there are two items to fill in... the path and the creator. The path allows you to specify both a name for the file and where it's located. A path is the drive name, the folders, and the filename separated by colons. So, a path might be:

> Hard Drive:Folder 1:Folder 3:WMUG User Stats

As you can see, you don't have to use the default names, you can use whatever names you'd like. If you have just a name of the file listed, then the file will be created in the same folder as Suzie.

The second item, the creator, is a field that will help some sysops. This can be useful for determining what kind of Finder icon displays. The default value, 'LCLB' is a TeleFinder text file, so when viewed on the BBS, it will have the "TF" icon.

2. Group/Values

The next item in the Settings menu is "Group/Values." This is where we'll decide who makes it onto some of the stat files. Jump down to the bottom and we'll see 5 fields. Let's go through them:

```
╔════════════ Group/Value Settings ════════════╗
║                                                ║
║  ⊠ Update Groups                               ║
║                                                ║
║  Abusive Group  │Group.abusive           │    ║
║                                                ║
║    Good Group   │Group.user              │    ║
║                                                ║
║                                                ║
║  # of UL'ers  │15    │    Min. Calls  │5    │  ║
║                                                ║
║   UL Weight   │10    │    Min. Kbytes │50   │  ║
║                                                ║
║   Msg. Value  │5     │                         ║
║                                                ║
║                          ( Cancel )  (( Save ))║
╚════════════════════════════════════════════════╝
```

# of UL'ers: This is how many people to list in the Top Uploaders and Simple Top Uploaders file. If you aren't creating these files, then it doesn't matter what number is here. The maximum value is 50.

UL Weight: This is the weight of an upload. For each user, Suzie calculates an internal upload-to-

download value. Normally, this value is:

```
uploads - downloads
```

If this value is positive, the user is "good." If the value is negative, the user is "abusive." But you may want an upload to be weighted so the user can download more than he uploads. That's what the weight is for. The value now becomes:

```
( UL Weight * uploads ) - downloads
```

So if you want 1 upload to be worth 10 downloads, set your UL Weight to the value of 10.

Msg. Weight: Some sysops value public message posting just as important as uploads. That's why the Msg. Weight exists. The sysop can have a message posted equal to the value of an upload measured in kbytes. So, if you want a message to be worth 10k, then make the message value 10. The value now becomes:

```
( UL Weight * ( uploads + ( Msg Weight * Msgs Posted ) ) ) - downloads
```

Min. Calls: Sometimes you may want to give your new users some time before they have to meet your upload requirements. For that reason, a user will not appear on the Freeloaders list or have a value calculated until the user has called this many times.

Min. Kbytes: You may also want to give your users a certain amount of downloading freedom before they will be subject to upload requirements. Until the user has downloaded this amount, the name will not appear on the Freeloaders list and no value will be calculated.

Now that you know about the values, I can explain the top of this window. If you are using group files for your users, you can opt to have two different groups for your normal users. A "good group" and an "abusive group."

To implement this feature, turn "Update Groups" on. Then enter in the name of your a group file for your "good" uses and also for your "abusive" users. When Suzie runs, it will calculate a value for each user, and assign the group file depending on the calculation.

This feature only works back and forth between the good and abusive groups, and that is an important feature. This means if a user does not already have one of these groups, the user will never have their group file changed.

3. Options

The next item brings up the "Options" window. There are three checkboxes in this window. The first one is "Import new users." If you have this turned on, Suzie will automatically import the "New Users" file that Group Host Edition creates. This will be especially useful for Tabby sysops who can have Suzie import their new users each night with no work. In order to use the import feature properly, be sure to look at the last choice in this menu, "New User Settings."
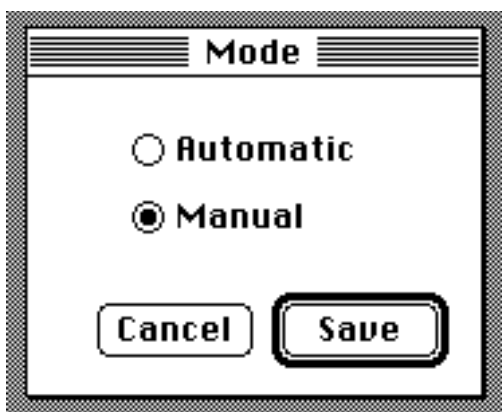
The second option is "Delete Inactive Users." This allows you to delete users that haven't logged onto your BBS in a while. Simply set how many days a user should be inactive for before they will be tossed. For safety, Suzie writes some information about the users it deletes in a file called "Deleted Users." If a user gets deleted that you later wish to restore, you can use this file to find out the name, phone, and password. (You can also use this file with the User Manager to import. Just name it "New Users" and remove the entries you don't want.)

The last choice is "User 'Publish Name' flag." If this is checked, any users that do not have the "Publish Name" flag checked in their user setup will not be modified, and will not appear on any stat files. This is good for keeping those users hidden if that's your intention.

4. Mode

The next menu item is "Mode." When you select this choice you will be presented with two choices for Suzie to operate with, Manual and Automatic. Normally, Suzie is in Manual mode.

For sysops that wish to run Tabby in their event chain, change this setting to automatic. This means that Suzie will launch and immediately process the "TeleUsers" file found in the same folder as Tabby. When it finishes, it will launch the next program in the chain.

In order to change your settings, you will need to regain control of Suzie. Fortunately, this is simple enough. Launch Suzie by double clicking on it, and then hold down the mouse button until the menus appear on the screen. As this point you can let go and change your settings. But Suzie is still in automatic mode for the next time it runs.

5. New user settings

For the sysops choosing to import new users automatically, you'll use the last menu item, "New User Settings" to decide how these new users will be setup.

```
╔══════════════════════════════════════════════════╗
║ ═══════════════  New User Settings  ═══════════  ║
╠══════════════════════════════════════════════════╣
║                                                    ║
║  ☒ Publish Name          Access Group file:        ║
║  ☒ Publish Phone        ┌──────────────────────┐   ║
║                         │ Group.user           │   ║
║  ☐ Password Locked      └──────────────────────┘   ║
║  ☐ Can Make Changes     Logins per day: │Unlimited▼│║
║  ☐ Mail Locked          Time limit is: │ Daily  ▼│  ║
║  ☒ Can Download                                    ║
║  ☐ Time Limit on Download  Time limit (minutes): │90│║
║  ☒ Can Upload                                      ║
║                          ┌──────────────────┐      ║
║                          │  File/Conf Access │      ║
║  "Mail" Folder Path:     └──────────────────┘      ║
║ ┌──────────────────────┐                           ║
║ │ :Mail:               │  ┌────────┐ ┌──────────┐  ║
║ │                      │  │ Cancel │ │    OK    │  ║
║ └──────────────────────┘  └────────┘ └──────────┘  ║
╚══════════════════════════════════════════════════╝
```

This dialog and the settings should be familiar from the User Manager. Therefore, I won't go into detail here. But there is one item you should take note of. The "Mail Path" is the path to the folder that stores your mailboxes. So if you had a folder at the top of your drive called "Mail," the Mail Path entry should look like:

    Hard Disk:Mail:

Be sure there is a colon after the path. As an example, when Suzie runs, if it was importing a user named "John Doe," the user's mailbox entry seen in User Manager would appear as:

    Hard Disk:Mail:John Doe:

Let's do it!

Now that you've seen all the settings, you're ready to process your TeleUsers file. Choose "Process" from the File menu, and locate your TeleUsers file. Processing will take place with a status bar so you can see what's happening.

There are additional ways to process files. You can drag a TeleUsers file on top of Suzie if you're running System 7. That will launch and begin processing. Suzie also supports the required Apple©Events. So users with the right tools can script Suzie to some degree.

Special files...

Suzie uses two special files if you decide to implement them. Both files are text files that simple list users, one per line. The first file is called "Special Users." Users listed in this file are exempt from appearing on the Freeloaders file and exempt from having their group file changed. But that may appear on both the User Stats and Top Uploaders. In addition, special users are never deleted for inactivity. The second file is called "Unlisted Users." Users listed in this file are exempt from appearing in the Top Uploaders and Simple Top Uploaders file. But they may appear in the Freeloaders and User Stats files, and may have their group file changed.

Resources...

All settings are stored in readable resources, found in both the application and the Suzie Prefs file. In fact, there are a few items in the Suzie Prefs file that I didn't include an editing feature for. For instance, Suzie may create an "Imported Users" file. Using Resedit, you can change the name of the file, and even specify a pathname for that file. If you decide to modify these items, make your changes to the "Suzie Prefs" file. This file is located in the Preferences folder under System 7, or in the same folder as Suzie under System 6.

Support...

I value your input! This utility is useful to me, and I hope you'll find it useful also. But I realize some things may be too limiting. If that's the case, drop me a message and let me know what you'd like to see in the next version. Of course, if you find any bugs, that's very important.

The latest version of Suzie can always be found on WMUG BBS. Call 508/832-5844 as "guest" with any password. You'll find the latest release version in the "Local Interests" icon.

My other routes of support are:

Spider Island Host
America Online: TfChris
Internet: macman@wpi.wpi.edu
Fidonet: 1:322/115

And Thanks to...

Thanks to the following people for making Suzie possible:

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Rusty Tucker provided the file formats of the TeleUsers file. Some portions of Suzie are copywrite by Spider Island Software.

Michael Connick provided the launch.next code. Some portions of Suzie are copywrite M.E. Connick & Company.

The icons and artwork were contributed by Nick Michael.