ApplWindows 2.0

by Hiro Yamamoto

§ 1. What is ApplWindows

ApplWindows is a control panel that helps you easily navigate through many windows. ApplWindows works under System 7.0 or later. (It does not work under System 6.0.x or earlier.) It adds a list of available windows off the Application menu at the top right corner in the menu bar. To illustrate what it does, suppose there are three open windows in the Finder as shown in Figure 1. ApplWindows extends the window list for the Finder as displayed in Figure 2. The check mark indicates the present front most window for each application. The front most application is marked by an underline.
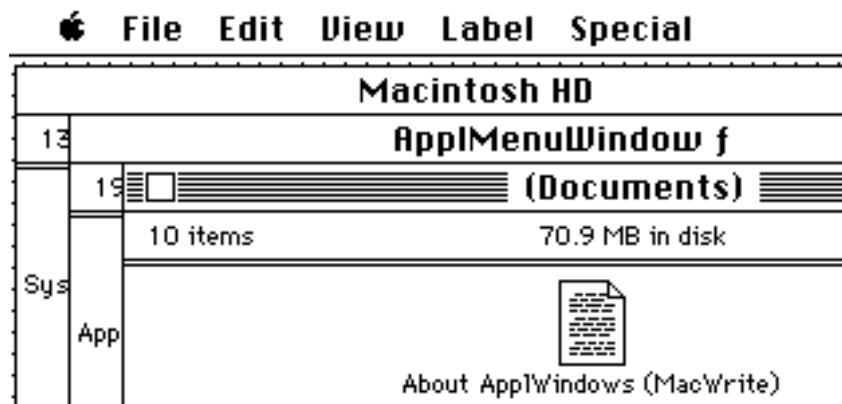

Fig. 1 Windows in the Finder

Fig. 2 Window submenu off Application menu

To bring another window to the front, select its name in the windows submenu. If the selected window belongs to an application which is not the front most, then the application will be also brought to the front.

The windows in the submenu can be arranged in alphabetical order or in front to back order. This can be selected using the ApplWindows control panel as is described below. The front most window is marked by a check mark.

The **Shift key** can be used to temporary disable all of the ApplWindows features.   For example, if you hold down shift key before you click on the menu bar, the Application menu is not modified.

Other useful features of ApplWindows are:

1) Automatically hide applications/DAs which are not the front most.
2) Show the Application menu anywhere you click.
3) Switch applications/windows using arrow keys.
4) The window list in the submenu can be arranged in an alphabetical or in a from front-to-back order.

The section 3, "Customizing ApplWindows" describes the details.

§ 2. How to Install ApplWindows

To install ApplWindows, put the ApplWindows icon in the Control Panel folder in the System folder, or drag it on top of the System folder icon. Then restart your Macintosh. ApplWindows works on all types of Macintoshes running under System 7.0 or later. It does not work with System 6.0.x. ApplWindows uses 10K of the system memory.

§ 3. Customizing ApplWindows

You can customize the behavior of ApplWindows from the ApplWindows Control Panel. Figure 3 shows the ApplWindows control panel window. When it is opened for the first time after installation, all check boxes will be unchecked, and the "Window Ordering" will be set to "Front to Back".

The following subsections explain

§ 3.1.   How to change the display order of windows in the window submenu.
§ 3.2.   How to automatically hide programs which are not the front most.
§ 3.3.   How to bring up the ApplWindows menu besides from the top right corner of the menu bar.
§ 3.4.   How to switch windows and applications using arrow keys.

§ 3.1. Window Ordering

By selecting one of the options, "Alphabetical" or "Front to Back", the window names in the window submenu can be arranged either in alphabetical order or front-to-back order. The front most window is marked with a check mark when there are two or more open windows.
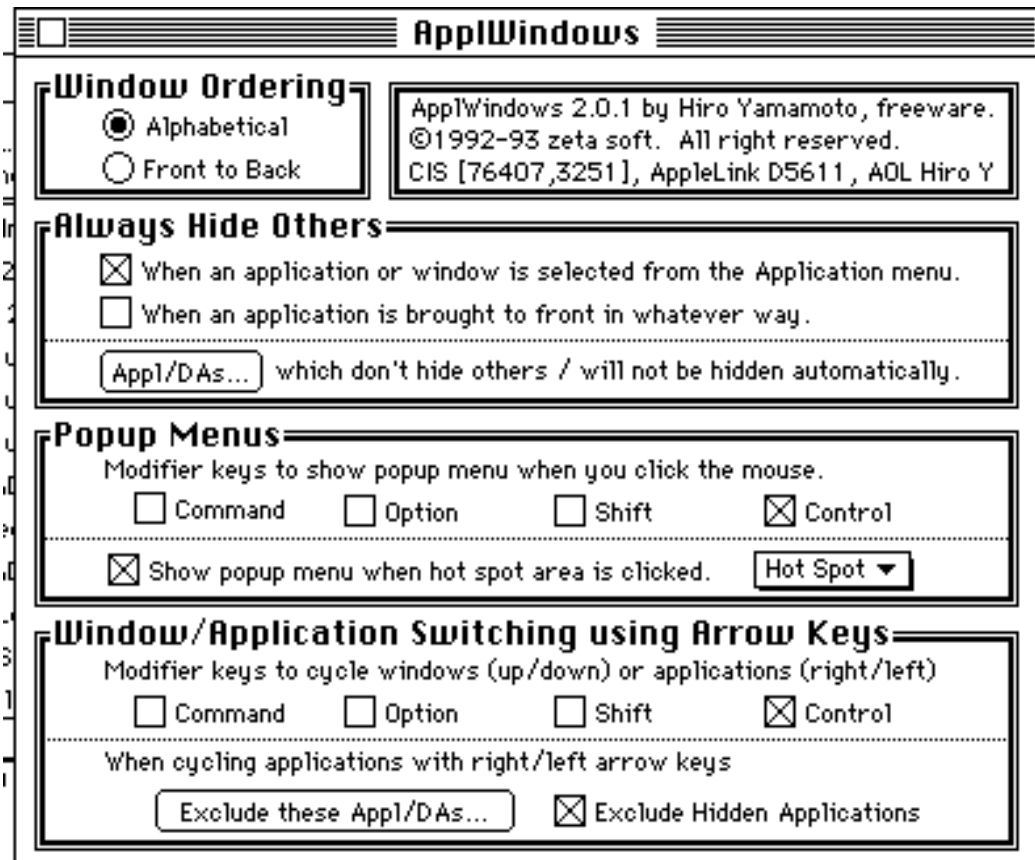

Fig. 3 ApplWindows Control Panel

§ 3.2. Always Hide Others

If may be handy if unused applications are hidden automatically, whenever a selected application is sent to front. It reduces window cluttering. ApplWindows lets you do that.

When you select an application or a window from the Application menu with the **command key** down, all other applications are automatically hidden, after the selected application comes to front. You get the same effect as selecting an application followed by selecting "Hide Others" from the Application menu.

"When an application or window is selected from the Application menu"

> If this check box is checked, whenever you use ApplWindows menu to select an application, all other applications will be hidden without your pressing the command key.

"When an application is brought to front in whatever way "

If this check box is checked, whether you use ApplWindows menu or ordinary window clicking, whenever the front most application is switched from one to another, all other applications will be hidden.

If you want to temporary disable this auto-hiding feature, hold down the **shift key** when you select another application. Then the selected application and the previous front most application will remain visible together.

"Apple/DAs... button "

Sometimes it is desirable to keep programs visible, even while they are sent to behind. Programs of such categories include Alarm Clock and Battery DA. Also, there are cases where you wish to keep other applications visible when you bring a particular program to the front. The Battery DA, again, may be such an example. If you want to prevent some programs automatically being hidden or hiding others, add those programs to the list of programs using the "Appl/DAs..." button.

After switching and hiding applications, if you notice some desktop items are missing, do the following: make sure that the Finder is the front most, then just select that area with the mouse. The missing items will show up. This is only a problem with redrawing of desktop items. The Finder is not broken. Those items still do exist.

§ 3.3. Popup Menus

There are two ways you can use the Application menu besides from the top right corner of the menu bar. They come out handy when you use large monitors. The Application menu works exactly the same way as you use from the menu bar.

"Modifier keys to show popup menu when you click the mouse "

Select one or more of the modifier keys there. Then the Application menu shows up anywhere you click mouse with the modifier keys being held down.

"Show popup menu when hot spot area is clicked"

When this option is on, you can bring up the Application menu when you click the mouse in a specified area. No modifier keys are required. The hot spot can be selected using the ***"Hot Spot"*** menu in Fig. 4.
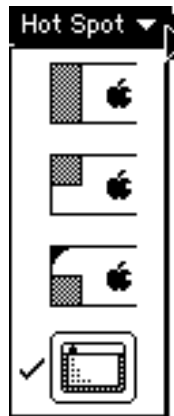
Fig. 4 Hot Spot selection menu

The top three items in Figure 4 show the choices concerning the hot spot at the left end of the menu bar. The active area of each hot spot is marked by the gray box. ApplWindows provides you with three variations of this kind. This is to maintain the compatibility with other utilities, like PopChar or NowMenus™, which use the same area of the menu bar.

If the fourth one is selected, the boundary edge of the monitor screen becomes the hot spot area. If you have multiple monitors, all the boundaries (more precisely, the lines beyond which you cannot move the mouse any more) will be the hot spot areas. If the point where you click is in the front most window and not in the title bar, that click works as normal and the ApplWindows popup menu does not show up.

§ 3.4. Window/Application Switching using Arrow Keys

"Modifier keys to cycle windows(up/down) or applications(right/left)"
When one or more of the modifier keys are selected there, you can use arrow keys to cycle through applications and windows. For example, suppose you select the control key as is shown in Fig.3, and suppose the Finder windows are like shown in Figure 1. If you type **up arrow key** with control key held down, next window, "ApplMenuWindow ƒ", comes to front. If you type again, then comes "Macintosh HD" to front. If you type **down arrow key**, the switching order is reversed.

Similarly you can cycle through applications. The order of the applications in the cycle is the chronological order you used them. For example, in the example in Fig.2, if you used Think C, then use MacWrite, the switching order is,

MacWrite - Think C - Finder.

In MacWrite, if you type **right arrow key** with control key held down, Think C comes to front, then comes Finder. When you comes to Think C, do something, and hit right arrow, then MacWrite comes to front, because the application ordering is now

Think C - MacWrite - Finder.

In short, when you want to move to the last program you used, always use the right arrow key. If you type **left arrow key**, the oldest one comes to front.

"Exclude these Appl/DAs... button"
> If you do not want some programs to be part of this switching cycle with arrow keys, add them to the exclusion list using this button. The Finder, Battery or DarkSide may be such candidates.

"Exclude Hidden Applications"
> When this option is on, hidden applications will not come to front when you cycle through applications using arrow keys. If "Always Hide Others when an application is brought to front in whatever way" is on, this option is not available (the option item will be dimmed in the control panel).

§ 4. Final words

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Enjoy !!!