

# Pre Version™

version 1.0.2a-

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## Overview

Pre Version™ is a utility that will maintain a history of your documents for you, automatically. If you've ever made extensive revisions to a document, and then wanted to go back in time to either restore the original or simply see what the original had looked like, you'll appreciate PreVersion™. For document types that you select, Pre Version™ will make a saved version each time the document is saved (or opened and modified, depending upon how the accessing application works). You can control how frequently PreVersion™ captures versions and how many versions to keep (for example, the last 5 versions). You can also specify rules on a folder by folder basis (for example, WriteNow documents might be "monitored" in folder "A" but not in folder "B").

*PreVersion™ never modifies the original document in any way.*

You can use PreVersion™ to maintain version histories of:

- documents for auditing purposes
- legal documents
- spreadsheets
- paintings or drawings
- programming source code files
- configuration files
- *any* Macintosh file you wish

All automatically, *without* manual intervention.

PreVersion™ is *not* a backup utility. It keeps the version documents on the same media (at present) as the original. Its purpose is to let you keep an easily accessible version trail so that you can see what changes you have made or change your mind about some of them and restore (or pluck bits out of) a previous version. ***SO BACK UP YOUR FILES!!!!!!***

## Usage Licensing Information

This package is "Shareware" which means that you do not pay for the package before you use it, you pay for it after trying it to make sure that it meets your needs. If you continue to use the package after the 30 day trial period, you are then obligated to pay for it. Otherwise, you must not continue to use it. The license fee schedule is:

- single machine license \$20.00
- HOME license  
(all of the Macintosh or compatible computers in your residence) \$30.00

Business site licenses are available and may be arranged by contacting me.

Payment may be made by check or money order made out to me, Mike Throckmorton (my address is listed below).

You may pass the *ENTIRE* "Pre Version™" package (software + documentation) on to others, providing that you do not *CHARGE* for it. If you wish to sell the package, contact me and we will work something out.

You may contact me at:

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CompuServe ID: 72220, 1611

## Caveats, Warnings and Assurances

**WARNING:** Although great care has been taken in the design and construction of this package, it may contain errors or may interact with other software or hardware on your computer which may cause operational failures (crashes). The effects of such crashes may cause damage (direct, indirect, etc). A **CONDITION FOR USE OF THIS PRODUCT IS THAT: IF YOU USE THIS SOFTWARE** you agree that you will not hold either me (Mike Throckmorton) nor the person you got the package from responsible for such damage. **YOU USE THE SOFTWARE at YOUR OWN RISK.**

## **Gory Details**

PreVersion™ watches for documents of types that you specify to be opened by any application (except the Finder) in folders that you specify. If an application does open one of these documents, PreVersion™ takes note of that fact. If the document is subsequently modified and saved, PreVersion™ will jump in and makes a copy of it *before* the modifications are made to the original document (um, hence the name "Pre Version"). The copy (or "version") is kept in a special folder, named "Versions Pre", in the same folder as the original document.

### **A session...**

In PreVersion™-speak, a modification "session" is the period starting from when an application, usually at your bidding, opens the document and ending when it closes the document (again usually at your bidding). PreVersion™ makes at most ONE version document per session.

### **Smarty-pants applications...**

For most applications, a "session" starts when you first open the document, either by double-clicking the document file from the Finder, or using the "Open" menu item of the application, and ends when you save and close the document. In this case, PreVersion™ will make one version document the first time you attempt to save your changes. You get one version, regardless of how many times you may subsequently change the document and execute the application's "Save" command during that session.

With applications of this type, if you want to capture multiple versions during a long work session, you will need to start a new PreVersion™ session for the document by closing it (selecting "Close" from the "File" menu or equivalent) and re-opening it (choose "Open" from the file menu) periodically.

### **Dumb applications...**

Other applications work differently. When you ask to open a particular document, the application reads in all in from disk into memory and closes the actual disk file without modifying it at that time. Subsequently, when you modify and save the document, the application re-opens the document's disk file and rewrites the whole document from memory out to disk. For applications like these, every "Save" you do is a PreVersion™ session, and PreVersion™ will create a version document, subject to the "Min Interval" attribute effective for that folder.

### **Remember...**

It is important to remember that PreVersion™ will not make a version of the document until the application actually tries to modify the original document on disk. For applications which only modify the original document when you save it, this means that if you open a document, make 10 hours worth of changes without saving (you foolish person) and then exit the application without saving changes (by clicking the "No" button on the usual "Save changes to document XYZ" dialog) PreVersion™ will *NOT* have made a version.

### **Where the versions sleep...**

PreVersion™ keeps its version documents (well, they're yours actually) in the special folder "Versions Pre" in each of the folder(s) as the documents it is tracking. Inside of each "Versions Pre" folder will be yet more folders, one for each document which has had a version created for it (we will call these folders "version document folders"). A version document folder has the same name as the document for which it

is holding versions. Inside of a version document folder you will find one file for each version named with the date and time of its last modification date.

Version documents are normal documents of the same type as the original. They can be manipulated just like normal files (double-clicked, renamed, trashed, etc), but you *really* ought not to. If you want to clear out version documents which you no longer need, you can either drag them to the trash (holding down the "Option" key, if they have been locked) individually, or by the folder-full (drag the whole folder to the trash). You will not disturb PreVersion™'s operation up by trashing versions, you will simply lose those versions.

If you need to reclaim disk space and decide that version files are the best victims, the easiest way to find all of the "Version Pre" folders is to use the "Find File" function of the folder or the "Find File" DA (or equivalent). You can then remove either entire "Version Pre" folders, entire version document folders, or individual version files.

### Potential Gotcha's...

- **Name changes:** If you change of a document (or other file) for which PreVersion™ has preserved versions, PreVersion™ does *not* automatically change the version file names (yet).
- **Deletes:** If you trash an original document, you will still have all of its versions. If you want these to be removed, you will have to use the Finder, or equivalent, to remove them.
- **Disk space:** You must be selective about which documents and which folders you decide to have PreVersion™ monitor. Disk space can get eaten up quickly, especially if you forget to set "Min Interval" and "Max Versions" appropriately. For most purposes, "Min Interval" should be set to at least 5 minutes. You might even consider setting it to a full 24 hours, depending upon your specific needs. Also, you might consider just pointing PreVersion™ at folders you are currently working in with your most important documents and removing unnecessary version documents when you have completed your work.

### Smarty-pants applications example

<to be supplied>

### Dumb application example

<u>Action</u>	<u>Original File Content</u>	<u>editor's "in memory" file</u>	<u>Versions Pre Folder</u>
initial	begin end.	N.A.	<no version file>
open the	begin	begin	<no version file>

file       end.

end.

edit the   begin  
file       end.

begin  
  i := 45;  
end.

<no version file>

after  
saving      begin  
            i := 45;  
            end.

edit  
more        begin  
            i := 45;  
            end.

after  
saving      begin  
            i := 45;  
            j := 47;  
            end.

begin  
    i := 45;  
end.

begin  
    i := 45;  
    j := 47;  
end.

begin  
    i := 45;  
    j := 47;  
end.

version file #1 contents:  
begin  
end.

version file #1 contents:  
begin  
end.

version file #1 contents:  
begin  
end.  
version file #2 contents:  
begin  
    i := 45;  
end.

# Installation

The package consists of this document and the PreVersion™ file.

To install:

- Backup your files.

It is important to keep backups of your files (especially the important ones, ya?) in any case, but, it is *especially* important when installing a new extensions (formerly known as "INIT"s) on your machine. Even though the extensions you use may be carefully crafted, conflicts may occur amongst them which might cause your machine to crash or otherwise malfunction. Such crashes or malfunctions may incidently cause some of your files to become corrupted. In which case, you'll be glad you had backups of your data.

- Drag the file "PreVersion™" into your System Folder.

Note: if you also have Boomerang™ or SuperBoomerang™ installed on your Macintosh™, you should ensure that Pre Version™ loads after it. You can do this either by arranging the load order using an "INIT manager" (such as InitPicker or InitManager) or by adding a character (for example "zPre Version™") to the beginning of the Pre Version™ file name to cause it to alphabetically follow Boomerang/SuperBoomerang.

- Use the PreVersion™ "Control Panel" dialog (see the "Configuration" section of this document) to select which folders and what document types you want monitored. You can make changes to your PreVersion™ configuration any time you wish but you must reboot your computer to have the changes take effect. If you have an "INIT" manager product, make sure that you tell it to let PreVersion™ load!
- Reboot your computer.



## Configuration

You "configure" PreVersion™ using its Control Panel dialog, which you get by opening the Control Panel (in your "Apple" menu), scrolling to the PreVersion™ configuration icon and clicking it. You will see this dialog (initially, yours will be "empty"):

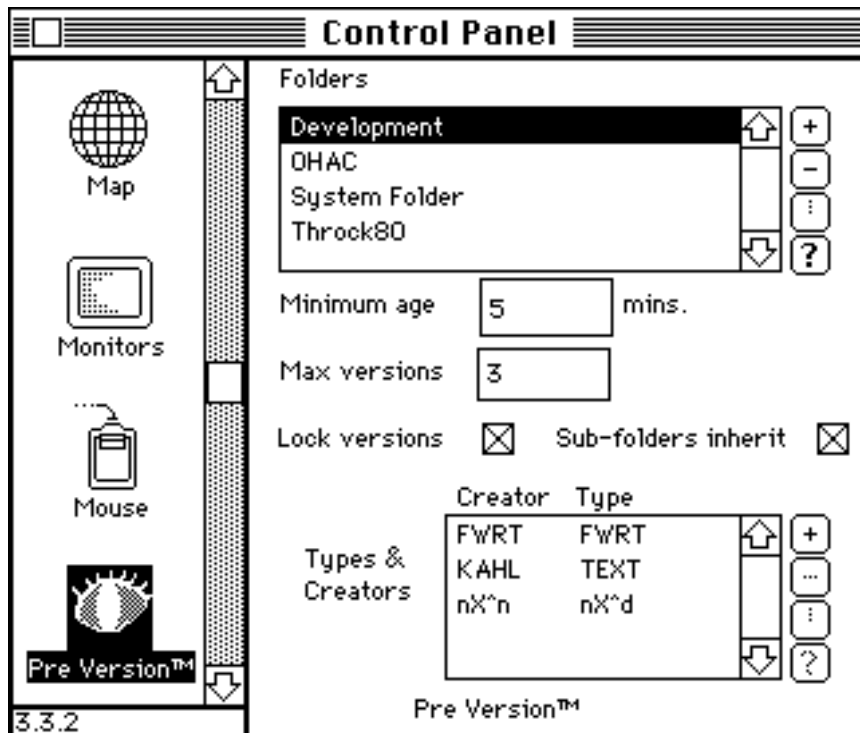


Figure 1

At the top of the dialog is the list of folders which Pre Version™ will monitor. The rest of the dialog box below the folder list shows the settings for the currently selected (high-lighted) folder. It is important for you to note that these settings take effect for the selected folder (and, optionally, folders which it encloses). The settings consist of some general attributes and a list of the application/document type combinations that you wish PreVersion™ to monitor.

For example, the configuration in Figure 1 shows that for the selected folder "Development", (and all folders which it encloses, because the Sub-folders inherit box is checked) PreVersion™ will monitor for changes to FullWrite Professional™ document files (creator FWRT, type FWRT), ThinkC source code files (creator KAHL, type TEXT) and WriteNow™ document files (creator nX^n, type nX^d). Also for "Development", only the most recent 3 versions of monitored documents will be kept and versions will only be created for documents which were last saved (or closed, saved and reopened, depending upon the specific application program) at least 5 minutes past. Finally, for "Development", the version files created will be "locked".

You can add folders to the list by clicking the "+" button, navigating to the folder you wish to add (you must be "inside" of the folder) and clicking the "Select" button. For example, in the picture below,

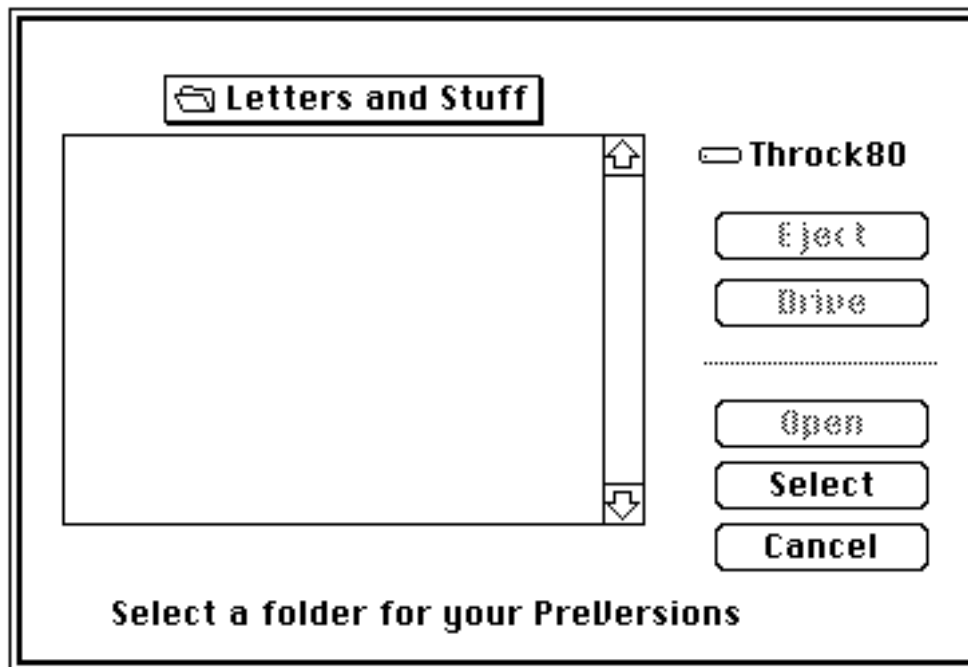


Figure 2

the Folder dialog is set up to select the folder "Letters and Stuff" and you would click "Select" to do so.

You can delete a folder from the list by selecting it and clicking the "-" (minus) button. You can see the folder path leading to a folder in the list by selecting the folder and clicking the "?" button (double-clicking the entry is a short-cut).

There are four attributes which you can set for each folder that you add to the Pre Version™ folder list:

- "Minimum age", specified in minutes, controls how frequently Pre Version™ will capture versions. For example, let's say that "Minimum age" is set to 5 minutes and you have a document open which you have just modified and saved (causing a version to be created). Now let's say that for the next 9 minutes, you keep modifying, closing and re-opening the document every 5 seconds (some insecure people, like myself, actually *do* this kind of thing). After this saving frenzy, you will only end up with the original version (saved during the first modify/close/re-open) and one additional one. PreVersion™ made the second version when you had opened, modified and closed the document after 5 minutes had elapsed from the time of the first version. Of course, as I've mentioned before, for some applications you will not actually have to close and re-open the document to get PreVersion™ to notice that it is about to be changed, simply modifying and saving is enough.

If you want PreVersion™ to capture all versions, set "Minimum age" to 0.

- "Max versions" controls the number of versions PreVersion™ will keep for each document. PreVersion™

will keep the last "Max versions" versions of each monitored document type. For example, if you set "Max versions" to 2 for a folder, no more than the two most recent versions of each affected document will be kept.

If you want PreVersion™ to keep all versions, set "Max versions" to 0.

- "Lock versions", if set, will cause PreVersion™ to lock each version document it makes to prevent inadvertent modifications. You may unlock individual version documents using the Finder by selecting the document, doing a "Get Info" and clicking the "Locked" check box.
- "Sub-folders inherit", if checked, causes folders contained by the currently selected folder, to inherit any settings you make. You can specify a "global" set of attributes and creator/type monitors by adding folder to the list and then overriding them by adding sub-folders and settings as you wish. For example, assume that folder "A" encloses folder "B" and folder "C" and you set up "A" to monitor WriteNow files. If you check the "Sub-folders" inherit check-box, WriteNow files will be monitored in folders "B" and "C" as well. If you then add folder "B" to the Pre Version™ folder list and set it up to monitor Excel files only, then WriteNow files will not be monitored in folder "B". Folder "C" will continue to inherit "A"s specifications.

The "Creator/Type" list at the bottom of the dialog specifies the list of application/document type combinations that PreVersion™ will monitor to create versions. An application/document type combination tells PreVersion™ that whenever a document of the specified type, created by the specified application, is about to be modified, PreVersion™ should jump in and save the original as a version. For example, the KAHN/TEXT combination shown in the Control Panel picture above (Figure 1) means that if a document of type TEXT which has been created by the ThinkC application is about to be modified, PreVersion™ should create a version copy.

You can add new combinations by clicking on the "+" button and using the file selection dialog to choose a document of the application/document type that you wish monitored. In the dialog shown below,

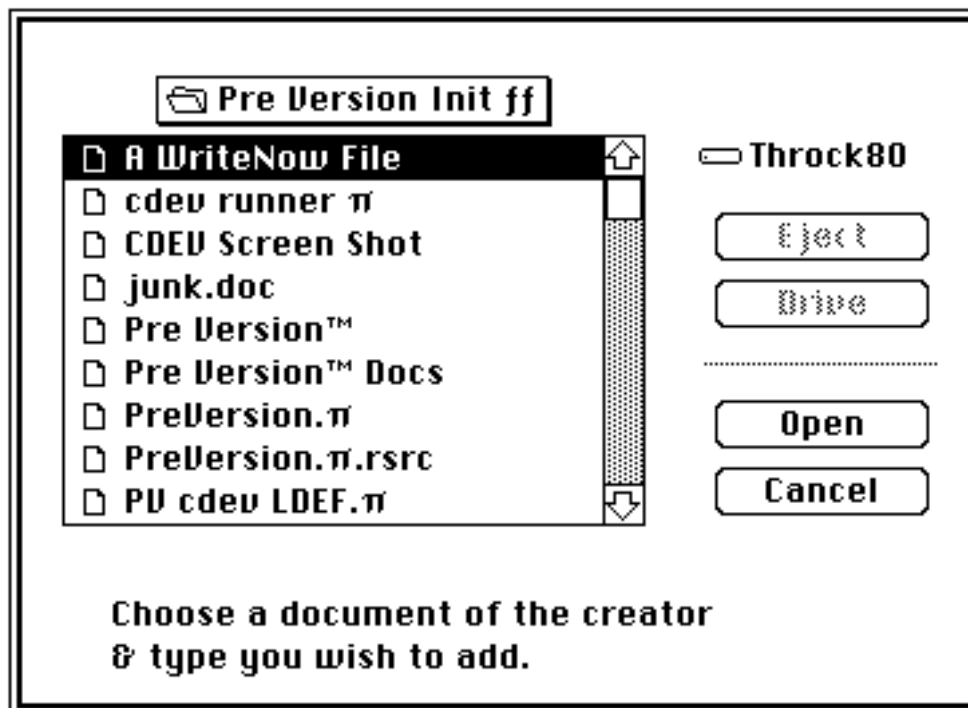


Figure 3

the file "A WriteNow File" has been selected. When the user clicks the "Open" button, the creator and type of the file "A WriteNow File" will be added to the creator/types list.

You can delete combinations by selecting them and clicking the "-" (minus) button.

## **Accessing Versions**

To access the saved versions of a particular document, start the application required to access the document, select the "Open" command (however you usually do it for the application) and navigate to the folder where the document is located. Select the document the usual way (using your mouse or keyboard) and, while holding down the "Command" key (clover-leaf), click the "Open" button (or double-click on the document name). PreVersion™ will then show you a list of the versions, if any, of that document. Each is "named" with the date and time of the version like this,

2/27/1991-16.21.30

which means that the last modification date of this version of the document was February 27, 1991 at 4:21:30 in the afternoon.

You can open a saved version by selecting it and clicking "Open" or double-clicking on it.

If you've elected to keep your "versions" unlocked, you ought not to modify them directly (documents inside of "Version Pre" folders are NOT monitored). Always open the version and do a "Save As" if you wish to "retrieve" and modify a version document.

## **Final Notes**

I plan to enhance PreVersion™ substantially, especially the user interface (for obvious reasons) for commercial distribution if it seems well received. So, in the future, you might find a much improved user interface, compression of versions, the ability to designate where you want to versions to be kept and much, much, more.

Depending, of course....

If you keep this package, remember that it is important (besides the fact you are obligated to) to pay the shareware fee.

If you don't keep it, for whatever reason, I would love to hear your comments so I can improve the product.

In any case, thanks for trying it out and make sure to let me know what you think!

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CompuServe 72220,1611



## Appendix

### Example Creator and Type Codes

#### **Canvas™ (Deneba)**

Creator: DAD2  
Drawing document: drw2  
Color Table document: drwC  
Dictionary: DS11

#### **DeltaGraph™ (DeltaPoint)**

Creator: DGRH  
Graph document: DGRD

#### **Excel 1.5™ (MicroSoft™)**

Creator: XCEL  
Spreadsheet document: XLBN  
Macro document: XLPG

#### **Excel 2.2™ (MicroSoft™)**

Creator: XCEL  
Spreadsheet document: XLS  
Macro document: XLM

#### **Font/DA Mover (Apple Computer)**

Creator: DMOV  
Font document: FFIL  
DA document: DFIL

#### **Full Impact™ (Ashton•Tate™)**

Creator: Flv2  
Spreadsheet document: Fl2d  
Function pack document: FPAK

#### **HyperCard 1.x (Apple Computer)**

Creator: WILD  
Stack document: STAK

**MacDraw II™ (Apple Computer/Claris)**

Creator: MDPL  
drawing document: DRWG

## **MacWrite™ (Apple Computer/Claris)**

Creator: MACA  
Document: WORD

## **ResEdit (Apple Computer)**

Creator: RSED  
resource document: rsrc

## **TeachText (Apple Computer)**

Creator: ttxt  
Text document: TEXT

## **ThinkC (Symantec Corp.)**

Creator: KAHL  
Text document: TEXT  
Project document: PROJ