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CatFinder©

The Intuitive Disk Cataloging Utility.
Version 1.0

By Keith Turner

Quality shareware from
ShadeTree Programming

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Registration

CatFinder is a shareware product. Feel free to trial CatFinder free of charge. If you like CatFinder and want to add it to your software library please register by sending a check for \$25 to:

Keith Turner
P.O. Box 27
New Hill, N.C. 27562

If you live outside the U.S. please include an extra \$5 to cover shipping costs. Upon registering the product you will receive these benefits:

- A printed and bound manual.
- The latest revision of CatFinder on disk.
- Notice via mail of new versions of CatFinder and upgrade discounts.
- A news letter of other products from ShadeTree Programming as they become available.

What is CatFinder?

Searching through multiple disks for a specific file or folder is a headache that most Macintosh users have faced at one time or another. CatFinder is a utility that solves this problem and many more by maintaining catalogs of disks on your hard drive. By using CatFinder, you can quickly find which disk contains a desired file and even launch the file from within CatFinder.

CatFinder can generate reports on the files you have scattered across your disks. For example, you can create a report of all the files you have created with a specific application.

There are other disk cataloging utilities, but CatFinder stands out by providing an intuitive Finder-like interface for browsing its catalogs. The following list highlights the functionality provided by CatFinder:

- Catalogs any disk including CD ROMs
- Provides intuitive interface for browsing catalogs

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- Performs file search based on file name and/or creator
- Generates catalog reports
- Generates reports from search results
- Under System 7 CatFinder supports sending Finder Events to launch or select files

CatFinder's interface makes it easy to browse the contents of your disks quickly without mounting the disk. This is especially useful for CD ROM users. Moving through folders on a CD ROM can be a painful process because of the slow access time of CD ROM drives. CatFinder alleviates this problem by keeping the CD's catalog on your hard disk and providing an intuitive interface for browsing and searching the catalogs. If you are running System 7, you can launch applications from CatFinder. CatFinder will prompt you to insert the appropriate disk and launch the file. If the disk is already mounted, CatFinder will detect the disk and launch the program directly.

The reporting features of CatFinder are ideal for aiding in the organizing of files on disks. Reports containing the contents of disks can be generated and printed. Reports can also be generated from search results. This feature could be used to generate a report of all files created by a specific application.

System Software Dependencies

CatFinder requires System software 6.04 or greater. CatFinder has some features which are available only under System 7. When running under System 7, CatFinder will display a **Finder** menu. Two features, **Select** and **Launch**, are available under the **Finder** menu. Both of these features use AppleEvents to communicate with the Finder under System 7. Using the **Select** feature causes CatFinder to send an open event to the Finder which will cause the selected file/folder to come to the foreground. The **Launch** feature will send a launch event to the Finder, which will cause the selected application to execute. These features are discussed in detail in the section "Finder Select and Launch".

Under a system software version less than System 7, the Finder **Select** and **Launch** features are not available and the **Finder** menu will not be displayed.

Installing CatFinder

Installation of CatFinder is easy. You simply create a folder on your hard disk then drag CatFinder into the folder.

CatFinder is distributed with a suggested execution size of 500K. If you are only cataloging diskettes and small hard drives (40M or less) you can reduce the current size to 250K. This is done by adjusting the current size field of the file information box. To get the file information box for CatFinder, select the CatFinder icon and choose **Get Info** from the Finder **File** menu or by pressing **⌘I**.

Running CatFinder

Double-click on the CatFinder icon to launch the application. The first time you execute CatFinder you will not have any existing catalogs so your main window will be empty as in Figure 1.

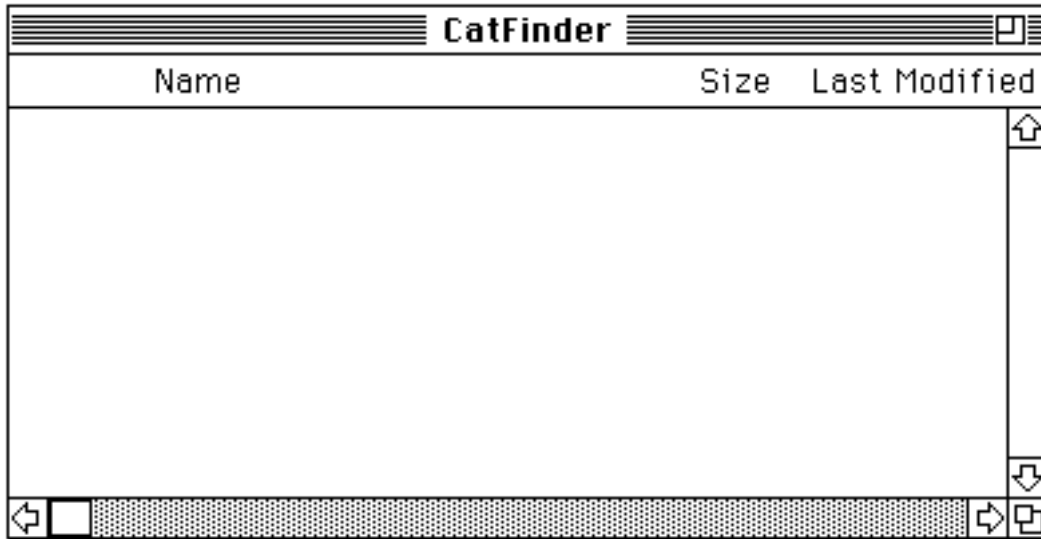


Figure 1.

Once you catalog a disk, a disk icon will appear in the main window list. The next section explains how to catalog a disk.

Creating Catalogs

Before you can do anything useful with CatFinder, you must catalog some disks. Creating a catalog is easy. Select **New** from the **File** menu and a dialog similar to Figure 2 will appear.

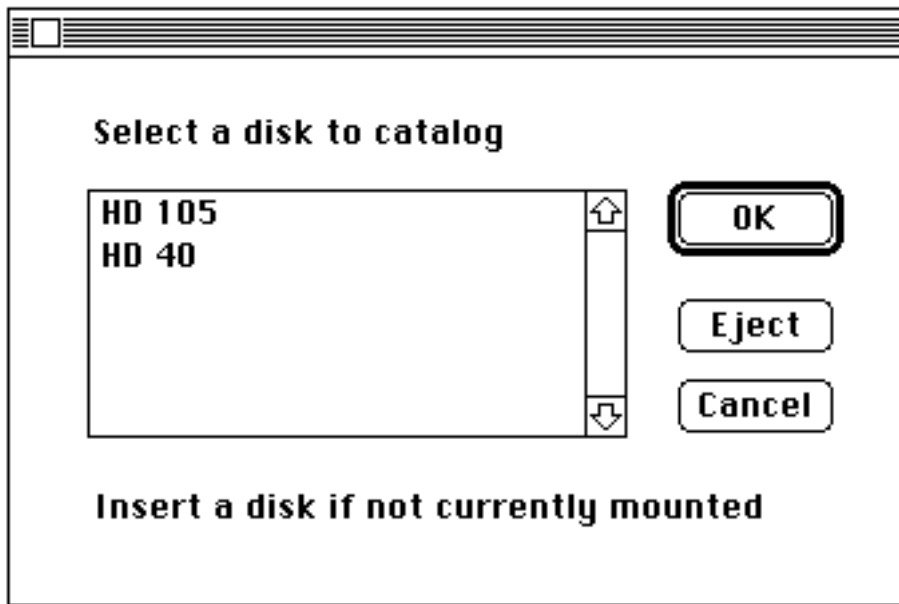


Figure 2.

Any disk which you have mounted will appear on the dialogs list. You can then catalog any disk which appears in the list or insert a disk to add it to the list. Select the disk you want to catalog by selecting its name from the list and clicking the **OK** button.

If you need to eject a disk so that you can insert a different disk, use the **Eject** button with the disk you want to remove.

Once you have selected a disk, CatFinder will display a message while it reads the disk. The larger the disk the longer this process will take.

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Diskettes will usually only take a couple seconds, CDs can take 5 to 10 minutes because of the number of files and the slow access time of CD ROM drives.

When CatFinder has completed cataloging the disk, it will return to the main window and a new icon representing the disk will appear as shown in Figure 3.

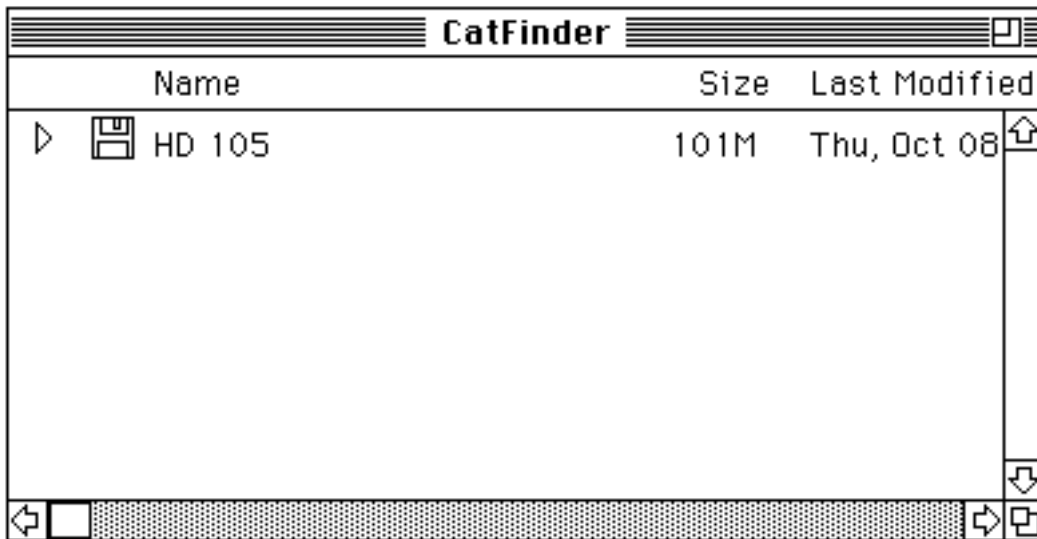
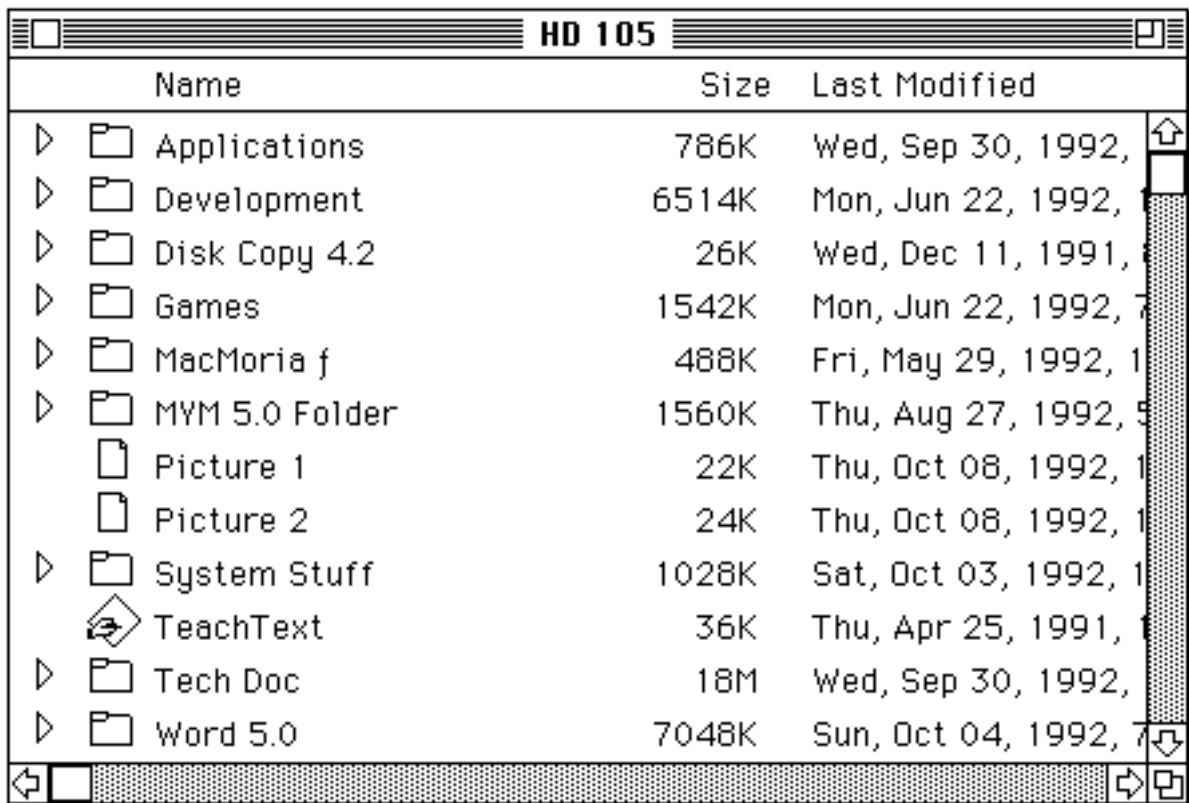


Figure 3.

Browsing Catalogs

One of the important features of CatFinder is how easily and quickly it allows you to browse a disk's catalog. You can either double-click on the disk icon or select the open icon. The open icon is the triangle that appears next to the disk icon.

Double-clicking on the disk icon will open a new window with the root files displayed. Figure 4 illustrates an open disk window.



The image shows a Macintosh window titled "HD 105" containing a file list. The list has three columns: "Name", "Size", and "Last Modified". The files are as follows:

Name	Size	Last Modified
▶ Applications	786K	Wed, Sep 30, 1992,
▶ Development	6514K	Mon, Jun 22, 1992,
▶ Disk Copy 4.2	26K	Wed, Dec 11, 1991,
▶ Games	1542K	Mon, Jun 22, 1992, 7
▶ MacMoria f	488K	Fri, May 29, 1992, 1
▶ MYM 5.0 Folder	1560K	Thu, Aug 27, 1992, 5
Picture 1	22K	Thu, Oct 08, 1992, 1
Picture 2	24K	Thu, Oct 08, 1992, 1
▶ System Stuff	1028K	Sat, Oct 03, 1992, 1
TeachText	36K	Thu, Apr 25, 1991, 1
▶ Tech Doc	18M	Wed, Sep 30, 1992,
▶ Word 5.0	7048K	Sun, Oct 04, 1992, 7

Figure 4.

Optionally, you can select the open icon next to the disk icon which will expand the main window to include the root files of the disk as shown in Figure 5.

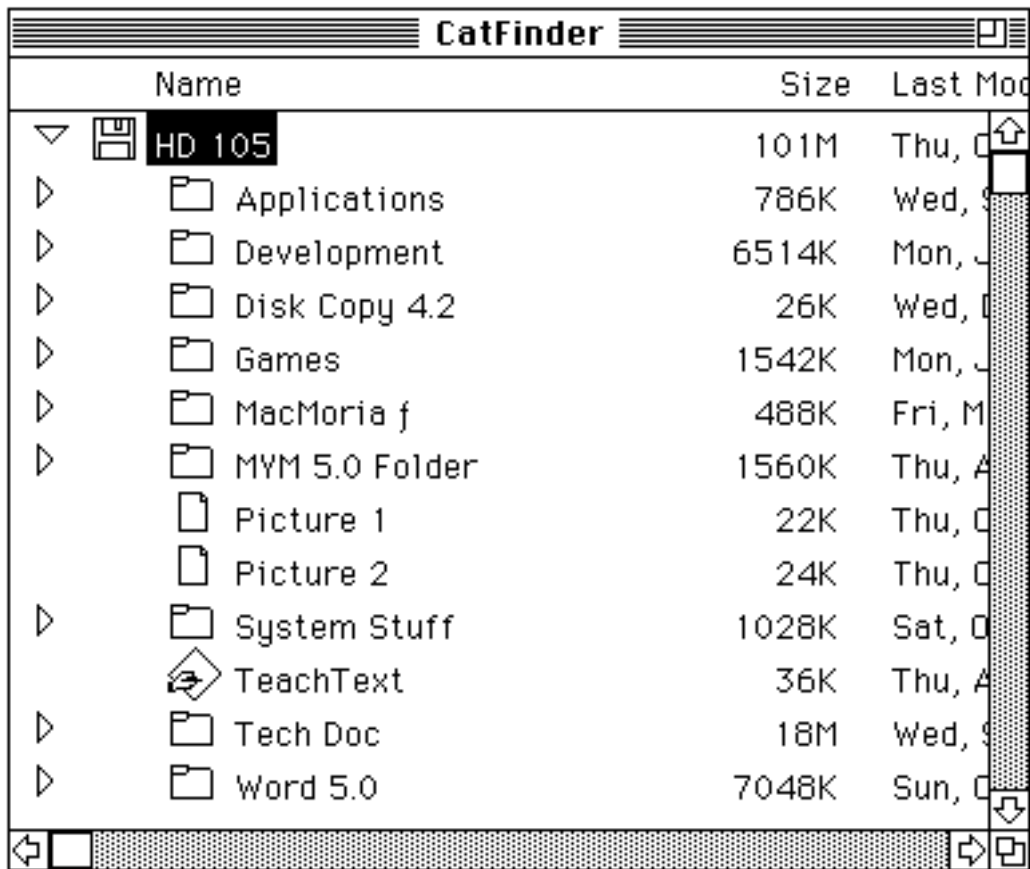


Figure 5.

Either method can be used for browsing disks and folders. Notice that application files are displayed with the standard application icon. Applications can be started while browsing by double-clicking on the application's icon or by selecting **Launch** from the **Finder** menu. For more information on the **Finder** menu options refer to the section "Finder Select and Launch".

Searching Catalogs

Any disk that has been cataloged by CatFinder can be quickly searched by either file/folder name or by creator. To search a disk, select the disk(s) (multiple disks can be selected by using shift-Click) and choose **Search** from

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the **Catalog** menu. The following dialog will appear:

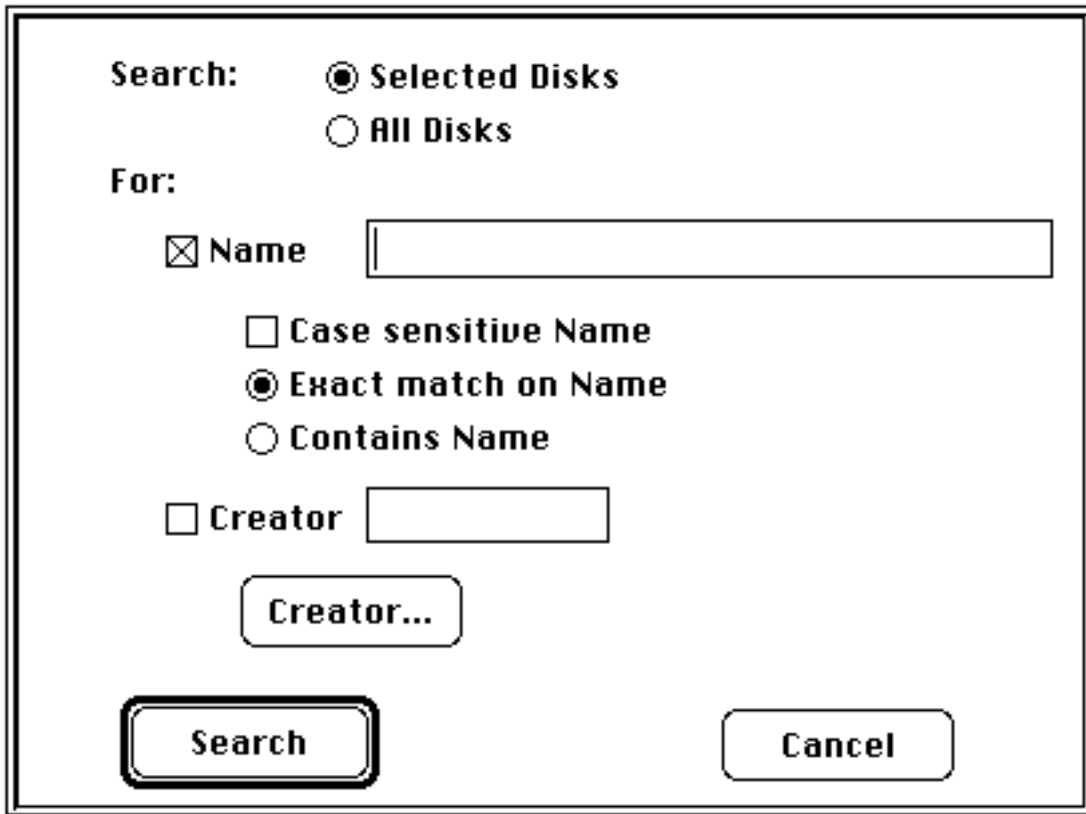


Figure 6.

You can use the **Search** radio buttons either to restrict the search to the disks you selected or to all disks.

Name Search

To search for file(s)/folder(s) by name, click on the **Name** box. First enter the name you want to search for in the field next to the **Name** box. Then check the **Case Sensitive Name** box to search for names with cases that match the search names. Use the **Exact match on Name** radio button to restrict matches to names that are the same as the search name. You can use the **Contains Name** radio button to match names that contain the search name.

Creator Search

To Search for a file(s)/folder(s) that was created by a specific application, check the **Creator** box. When you click on the **Creator** button you will get a dialog similar to Figure 7.

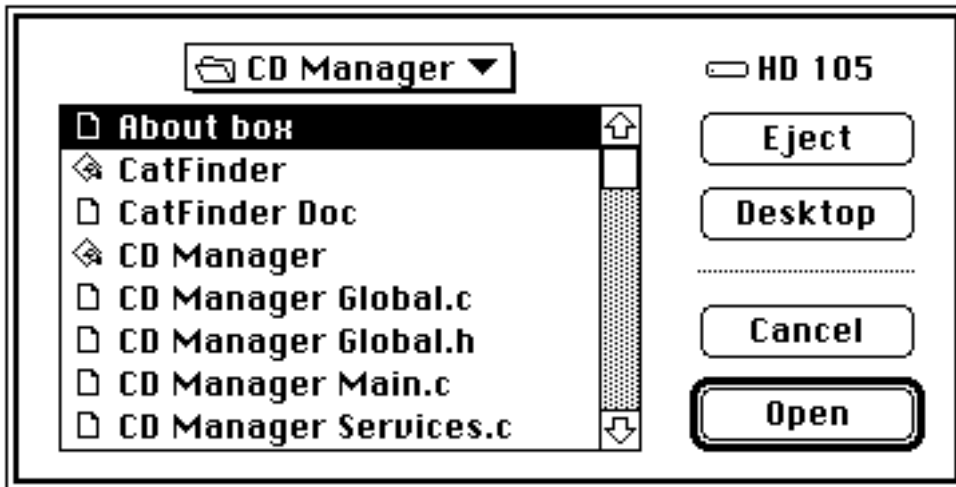


Figure 7.

In order to find applications created by a specific application, you need to supply CatFinder with the application's creator signature. This is done by finding the application in the standard open dialog and clicking the **Open** button. Once this is done, the creator search text will be filled in with the application's creator signature.

You can search by name or creator or both as described above. Once the search information is entered, click the **Search** button. When the search is completed, a **Search Results** window will appear as in Figure 8.

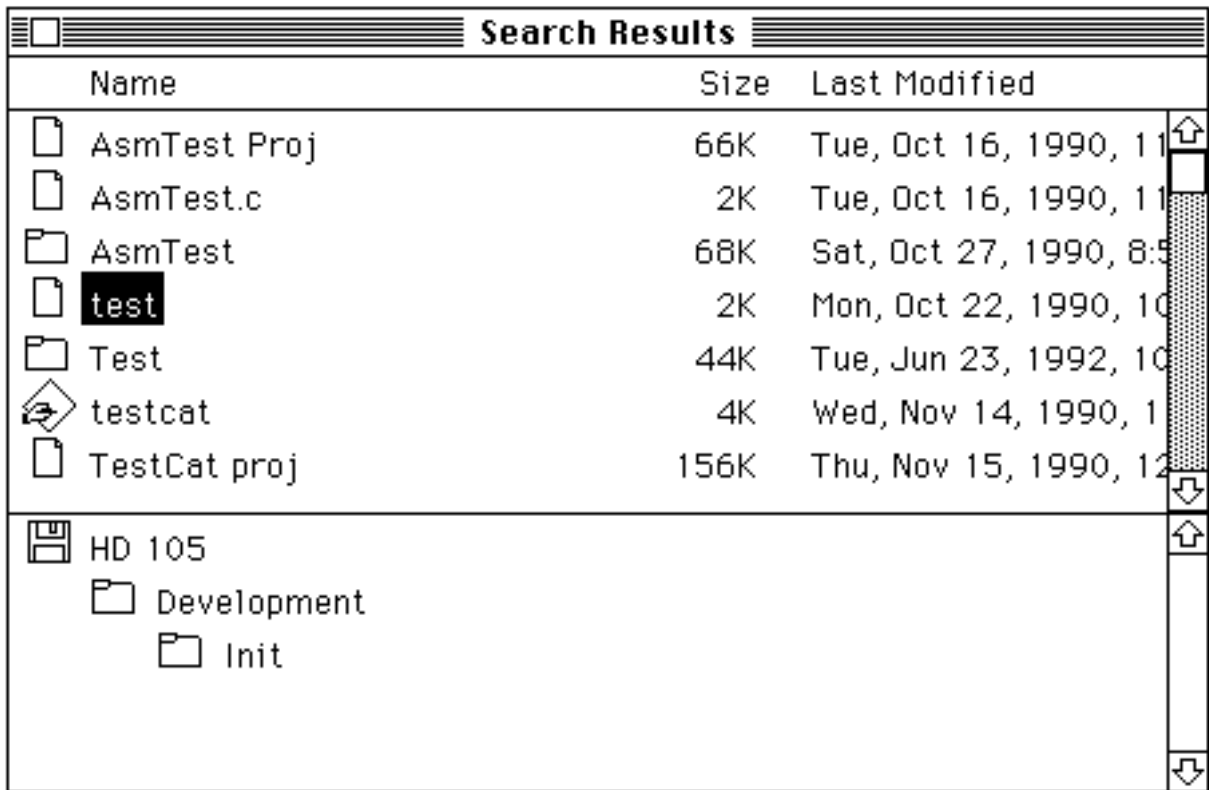


Figure 8.

The **Search Results** window has a top and bottom list. The top list contains the files and folders that were found in the search. The bottom list is used to display the path to an item in the top list. Simply click on an item in the top list and its location on a disk will be displayed in the bottom window. Double-clicking on a file will cause CatFinder to attempt to launch the file. See section "Finder Launch and Select" for more details.

You can generate a report from the search results by selecting **Report** from the **Catalog** menu once a search is complete.

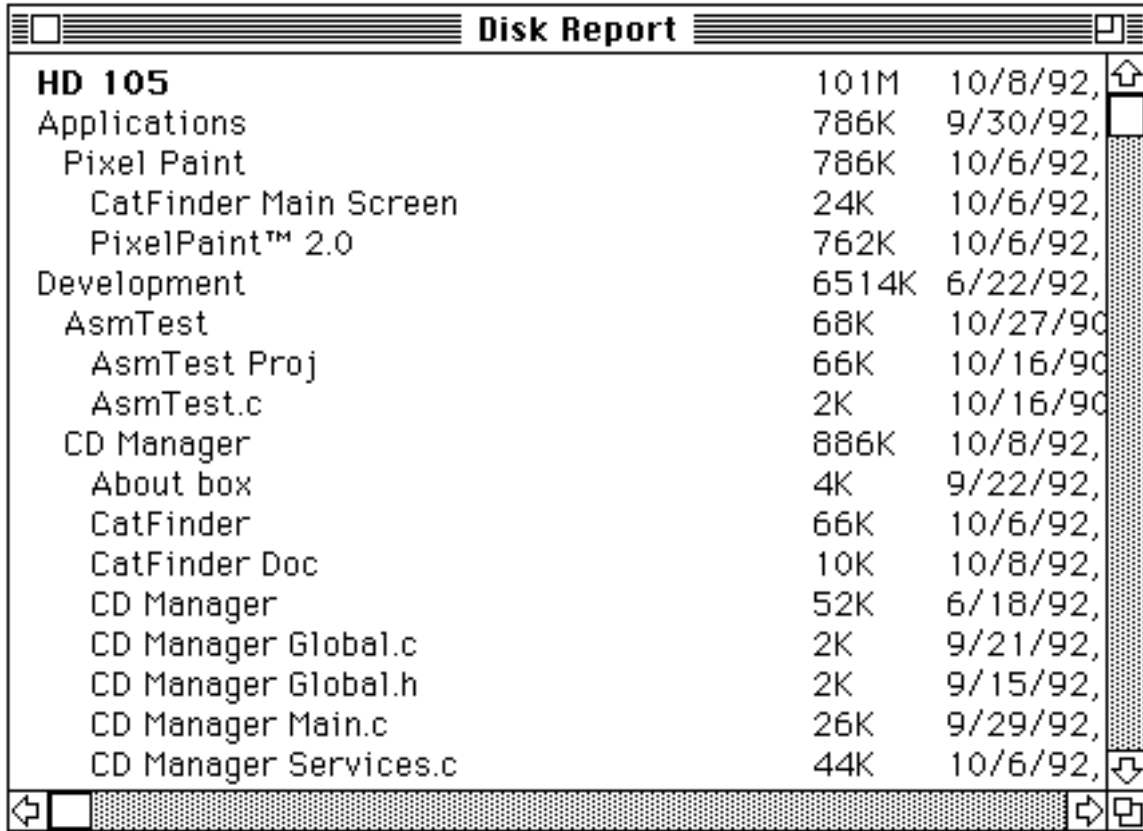
Generating Reports

Disk Reports

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Sometimes it's handy to have a list of all the files on a disk. CatFinder can generate a file list for any disk it has cataloged. All or part of a disk report can be printed after it has been generated. To

generate a disk report, simply select the disk(s) you want a report of and select **Report** from the **Catalog** menu. CatFinder will read the disk(s) catalog and display a window containing a report as in Figure 9.



File/Folder	Size	Modification Date
HD 105	101M	10/8/92,
Applications	786K	9/30/92,
Pixel Paint	786K	10/6/92,
CatFinder Main Screen	24K	10/6/92,
PixelPaint™ 2.0	762K	10/6/92,
Development	6514K	6/22/92,
AsmTest	68K	10/27/90,
AsmTest Proj	66K	10/16/90,
AsmTest.c	2K	10/16/90,
CD Manager	886K	10/8/92,
About box	4K	9/22/92,
CatFinder	66K	10/6/92,
CatFinder Doc	10K	10/8/92,
CD Manager	52K	6/18/92,
CD Manager Global.c	2K	9/21/92,
CD Manager Global.h	2K	9/15/92,
CD Manager Main.c	26K	9/29/92,
CD Manager Services.c	44K	10/6/92,

Figure 9.

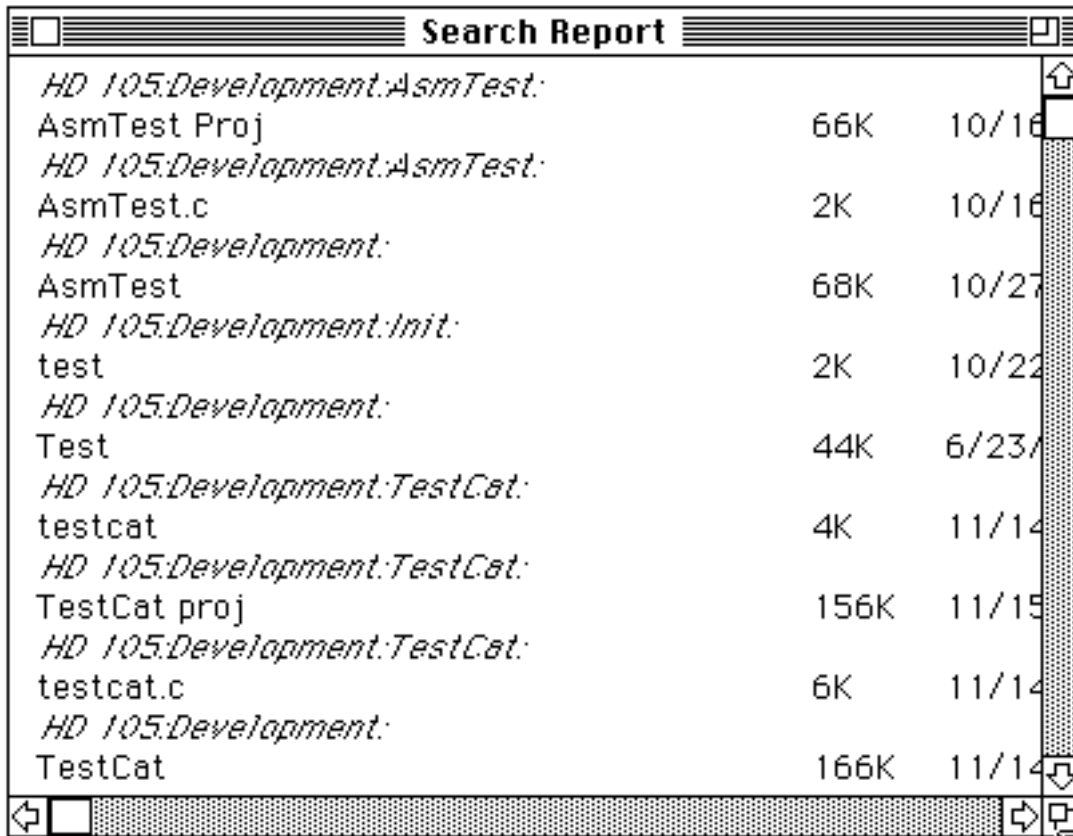
Disk names are in bold print and the file names, sizes, and modification dates will follow the disk name. Files contained in a folder are indented under the folder containing them.

Search Report

After completing a search, you can generate a search report by selecting **Report** from the **Catalog** menu while the search results window is active. The location of each file is displayed in italics above the file name. Each file's size and modification date is also displayed. Some or all of any report

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may be printed by using the **Print** option under the **File** menu. Figure 10 shows a sample search report.



Path	Size	Date
<i>HD 105:Development:AsmTest:</i> AsmTest Proj	66K	10/16
<i>HD 105:Development:AsmTest:</i> AsmTest.c	2K	10/16
<i>HD 105:Development:</i> AsmTest	68K	10/27
<i>HD 105:Development:Init:</i> test	2K	10/22
<i>HD 105:Development:</i> Test	44K	6/23/87
<i>HD 105:Development:TestCat:</i> testcat	4K	11/14
<i>HD 105:Development:TestCat:</i> TestCat proj	156K	11/15
<i>HD 105:Development:TestCat:</i> testcat.c	6K	11/14
<i>HD 105:Development:</i> TestCat	166K	11/14

Figure 10.

A common use for search reports is for generating a list of files created by a specific application. See section "Searching Catalogs" for details on Creator Searches.

Finder Select and Launch

If you are running CatFinder under System 7, you will have a **Finder** menu. Under CatFinder two options are available with the **Finder** menu: **Select** and **Launch**. The **Select** option will cause CatFinder to send a command to the Macintosh Finder to select a file or folder. This will cause the Finder to bring that file or folder to the foreground in a Finder window.

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Here's a scenario demonstrating when you might use the select option.

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You have just completed a search and found a file you want to work with. You would now like to access that file. In order to do so click on the file then use the **Select** option. If the disk that contains the file is not currently mounted, CatFinder will prompt you to insert the disk. CatFinder will give control to the Macintosh Finder which will open a window containing the file you selected. This saves you from searching through the Finder yourself to locate the file.

The **Launch** option works in a similar fashion as the **Select** option except that CatFinder will launch the application and bring it to the foreground if possible.

A shorthand method of using **Launch** and **Select** is to double-click on a file to **Launch** it or option-click to **Select** it.

Notes to the User

Following are various notes in the use of CatFinder:

- If you wish to delete a catalog that CatFinder has created, simply drag the catalog file into the trash can and empty it. The catalog files have the same name as the disk that was cataloged.
- Catalog files must be in the folder that contains CatFinder in order to be found.
- If you receive the "Out of Memory" alert, increase the current size of CatFinder as described in the section "Installing CatFinder".

The future of CatFinder

The following enhancements are planned for future versions of CatFinder:

- Search criteria base on file modification dates
- Print Disk labels
- Free space on disks
- Location of duplicate files

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- Extended information in reports
- Selection of fonts for reports
- Export of reports to text files and other formats

Quick Reference

⌘N	Create a new catalog
⌘O	Open a window
⌘W	Close a window
⌘P	Print a report
⌘Q	Quit
⌘F	Finder select
⌘L	Finder launch
⌘S	Catalog search
⌘R	Generate a report
option-click	Finder select