

## Snak 5.1 - IRC for Macintosh

### Introduction

Snak is a program that will let you participate in discussions in Internet Relay Chat (IRC) channels. IRC channels are like meeting rooms on the Internet, where people from all over the world can meet and chat.

There are thousands of channels, each focused on a location or subject, so it's easy to find a place where something interesting is being discussed. There are channels for computer related topics, popular sci-fi tv show, sports like soccer or ice hockey, current politics, local events in many cities and much, much more.

In addition to chats in the meeting rooms, IRC also supports private, real-time talks with friends, family or business associates.

IRC consists of many different networks, most of which have servers (dedicated computers) all over the world accessible through the Internet. Individuals use Snak to connect to a particular IRC network via a server. The largest of the IRC networks have as many as 100.000 participants and it is estimated that at any given time there is nearly a million people using IRC across the various networks.

The dominant population of IRC changes in a daily cycle, from European, to American, to Australian, to Asian, and back to European, as the day progresses. Because IRC is worldwide it can be a good way to hone skills in Swedish or French or any other language of interest. Chances are good it can be found on IRC.

Snak is distributed as shareware, which means that it may be used freely and evaluated for 30 days at no charge. Unlimited usage requires a license key which is \$25 for a single user.

After the 30-day evaluation period has ended the program will quit after 15 minutes of use if a licence is not purchased. Buying it will of course remove this limitation.

### About version 5.1

This version introduces spelling checking in the input fields, and provides better support for colors and styles in the messages. The actions can now post a Growl (<http://growl.info>) notification if Growl is installed. AppleScript is improved with better error reporting and fixes to the event handlers.

A full list of the changes can be found in the Version History chapter of the

manual which can be accessed from the help menu.

### About version 5.0

This release features extensive changes to the interface and improved networking code. Snak is now OS X only.

As before the windows can either stack (one panel visible) or tile the panels (all panels visible). The tiled view has been significantly improved, and now the panels resize dynamically when the topic bar is dragged. The panels can collapse so that only the topic area is visible. The stacked view uses a button bar to switch between panels, and this bar can be placed either above or below the panels. In both stacked and tiled view, the panels can be dragged between windows by grabbing the title bar. The windows provide live feedback of the insertion location and size of the dragged panel.

The nick column in the panels can be resized by dragging the divider between the nick column and the text area. The nicknames in the column can now be colorized for better distinction between the channel members.

The lists are now panels like the channels, consoles, queries, DCC chats and filters. This means that they can all be embedded in the same windows and thus reduce the number of windows on the screen. DCC file transfers are also panels so it is now possible to have a window listing all the downloads. The DCC panel stay open after the completion of the transfer until it is closed manually. A downloaded file can be opened directly from the DCC panel.

The profile list is expanded to display all the channels associated with the connections. The channels can be joined directly with a doubleclick on the channel name. The list also incorporates active and completed DCC transfers in a separate item.

Log files can now be saved as HTML 4 with a customizable stylesheet. This makes it easier to post an IRC log to the web.

The network code is now fully optimized for multiprocessor machines. The performance is increased and the sporadic crashes on very fast transfers are fixed. Connections to the network main servers, which distribute connections to other servers, works. The ability to connect to IPv6 enabled servers has also been added.

The preferences have been reorganized and simplified. You can now define a complete color theme and assign it on a per-panel basis. A color theme consist's of a background color and compatible nick and message colors. There is a separate panel to select the colors used in the user list, including colors for super and half-ops (channel operators with more or less privileges than the regular operators)

The scripting interface has been revised and updated with additional functionality. The included scripts, like PurePak and the TriviaBot have been updated and expanded.

The Script and Sound folders have been moved to the Application Support folder in the Library folder so that changes to these folders are not lost every time Snak is upgraded.

### [How to Purchase Snak](#)

Snak is shareware which means that you may freely use and evaluate it for 30 days at no charge. If you decide to keep using the program after 30 days you must buy a license and pay the \$25 fee.

The fastest way to buy a license is click the Buy Now button on the welcome screen or to use the secure webserver that is available from <http://www.snak.com> .

The license covers all upgrades to Snak for 2 years.

You can also buy by telephone by calling the Kagi Shareware payment service at +1 (510) 658-5244 to place an order. They charge a \$5 fee for telephone orders.

If you like the program, you are encouraged to buy a license, as the show of support and appreciation will allow me to spend even more time working on the program.

You are also encouraged to tell others about Snak if you like the program.

You are welcome to create links to the <http://www.snak.com> website and to the download page, but please do not make mirrors of the actual file. I update Snak frequently and your mirror will quickly be obsolete. If you want to include it on a CD, please let me know. If you include it on a CD you must use the unmodified .dmg file that is available from <http://www.snak.com>.

### [Identd](#)

Identd is a service that the IRC servers often require from your machine. The IRC server uses it to verify that you are providing a correct internet address when you connect. The service is transparent and has no effect when you're not trying to connect to an IRC server.

OS X 10.2 has its own identd server installed but not activated. OS X 10.3 and 10.4 does not have an identd server so it needs to be installed. Snak comes with a tool to install and turn on the Identd server so that you can connect. The tool is found in the folder called "Enable ident For OS X". Select

the appropriate version and double click it. It will then install and turn on the identd server. The tool will quit immediately when it is finished.

On 10.2, If you are using AirPort or another NAT device the built in identd tool in OS X needs to be replaced. The folder contains a modified identd tool that you need to install if you are using AirPort on 10.2.

### The server list

The server list is stored in the file "servers.ini" in the Snak folder in the Applications Support folder in your Library folder. The server list is shared with the PC IRC client mIRC and is used with permission from the author. If you lose the file you can download a fresh, updated copy from "<http://www.mirc.co.uk/servers.ini>" by using the "Update Servers" script that is found in the Script folder.

### Scripting Snak

Snak comes with the powerful PurePak script package written in the ircll scripting language which provides many useful functions to the serious IRC'er as well as the casual user. Snak also supports AppleScript in a way that makes it possible to easily port AppleScripts from other IRC clients to Snak. The two script systems can be used side by side and complements each other very well.

Snak supports almost all of the ircll scripting language, with the exception of keybindings, so the inclusion of PurePak provides very valuable capabilities to Snak. Please see the Scripting chapter in the manual for a complete list of supported and unsupported language features.

Snak is being heavily developed and new features are added frequently due to user demand. If you have a cool and useful feature you would like to see in this IRC client, please drop me a line with feedback, bug reports or feature requests at "[kents@snak.com](mailto:kents@snak.com)".

You can always get the latest version of Snak at the official website at <http://www.snak.com> .

### Features

Shared windows mean less window clutter than other IRC clients...!

A dedicated, resizable input field per channel

Spell checking

Multi connections and multi channels

Integrated /Notify support

Connection records can specify multiple servers, which allows the program to try each server until it finds one that will connect.

Built-in Address Book to store information snippets

Customizable menus

Font and background color can be set for each individual channel  
Manual and Automatic logging  
International character sets are supported  
Command-clicking URLs to open them is supported  
Fully searchable channel list and channel text  
Guardian feature lets parents limit what channels a child can use  
Fully customizable multi line aliases  
Two powerful scripting languages - ircII and AppleScript  
Identd support  
File transfer and chatting via DCC

### About the name

Snak is the Danish word for Chat. Why did I choose "Snak" . . . . ? I'm Danish :-)  
I normally pronounce it more or less like "Snack".

### Getting Started

When you first launch Snak, the setup assistant will guide you through the initial setup. Once that simple process is done, it will display a welcome screen to remind you Snak is distributed as shareware which means there is a 30 day free trial period. After the trial period you must buy a license for unlimited usage.

Once you close the welcome window, a window is shown that contains list panels and a bar with buttons across the top. The buttons are used to switch between the panels in the window. Usually, the profile list is the default panel. From the profile list you can directly connect to the networks and join the IRC channels.

Select one or more channels that you want to go to, and press the join button. If you don't see a channel you want to join, select a network in the list and press Cmd-J to open the Join Dialog. In this dialog you can enter the name of the channel to join.

Then more panels are added to the window to show the channels that you joined. A channel panel has a text area where the channel messages are shown. Depending on the settings there may also be a panel with the messages from the IRC server.

The profile list will initially contain default connection profiles for the most popular networks. A connection profile contains nickname, startup action and the server to connect to and serves as instructions to Snak about what to do to get on a particular network. The DALNet profile contains instructions to connect you a server on one of the largest of the major IRC networks.

In front of each connection profile is an icon that shows the status of the

connection. It will change as the connection progresses.

As the program attempts to open a connection to the server you can follow the progress in the server message panel and in the profile list.

Each server is a part of a particular network, so once connected to the server you are connected to the entire network.

Once the server message panel says that you are online, you have successfully joined IRC and you are ready to chat in the channel.

In the channel panel you will notice the user list to the right of the main text field, as well as the input field below it. Both the input field and the user list are fully resizeable. The input field will adjust its size automatically if you type more than will fit on a line.

You can join additional channels if you want, and there are several ways to do that. You have already seen the profile list, but you can also open a Join dialog with Cmd-J. You can also use the input field in the window with the channel panel or the profile list to type `/join #macintosh` (without the quotes). Instead of `#macintosh` you can enter any channel name you want.

#### \* No Warranty

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