

3D-Space VFS

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version 1.3

3D-Space VFS combines Launcher, Dock and Finder features with elegant, easy point-and-click access to all of your favorite files and applications through folders.

- Easy visual launcher / dock.
- Finder-like features and navigation.
- Instant access to hundreds of your favorite items in glorious, spacious 3D.
- Fast OpenGL graphics for a fluid user experience.
- Run tomorrow's 3D user interface on your Mac today!

3D-Space VFS lets you navigate from one 3D space to another, but with navigation to a minimum. Because each 3D drawer can hold a whole lot of items, you can keep all of your frequently accessed folders, applications and documents in these larger spaces.

This eliminates most of the navigation, and getting to your files and applications is easier than ever before!

A quick look around

On its first launch, 3D-Space VFS creates a sample 3D space with several applications. Here's what to try:

- **Magnify** items by pointing the cursor at them.
- **Drag** the ground to pan the view (left, right, near, far).
- **Resize** the window to see more or less of the scene, and change its position.
- **Click and Drag** up & down in the sky to zoom in & out (if you drag the ground, you pan).
- Hold the **option** key and click in the sky. From there, option-click scrolls. You can also drag up & down while holding the option key (or the middle mouse button).
- **Click** the miniaturized panel in the top left corner and try the controls.
- **Open** items by clicking them.
- **Select** items with command-click, or command-click the ground and drag around items.
- **Drag** items around (by their icon, not the text). Use the shift key to prevent positioning items.

At the back of the 3D space is the icon for your home folder. Click the icon to open the space. The items inside will be arranged by name, you can drag them to a different arrangement.

Clicking other folders will similarly open them as new 3D spaces. If you want to open in the Finder instead, change the "Open folders in..." preference (in the Space VFS so this demo works). The Go menu lets you get back to a previous space and drop more folders to any 3D space, and create new empty 3D spaces.

Let's have a quick look at some of the other things you can do in a 3D space.

More 3D Space options

The following options (and more) are available in a contextual menu that appears when you click the ground:

- Snap to grid, or freeform.
- Open items with a single or a double click.
- Arrange items by name, or by the date they were added to the space, or by the modification date, etc. Select "by Position" to switch back to the normal arrangement.
- Change the background picture.

Along with arranging items in any way you like, these settings let you customize the look and fit the way you work.

Landscape in a drawer

Click the other miniaturized panel in the top left corner to show the drawer and the drawer buttons.

- To close a drawer, move the cursor out of the drawer.
- To open a drawer, move the cursor to its tab and bump the edge of the drawer.
- To prevent a drawer from closing, click the tab while the drawer is open.
- Resize the tab using the handles at either side.

While a drawer is open, resize it by dragging the middle of the tab. Hold the shift key while dragging to only change the width of the drawer. Give the tab a low level of transparency so it matches your desktop.

Each 3D drawer can offer instant access to many more items than the desktop, and also open faster, and reduce to a miniature tab when closed.

Launcher + Finder interface

Just like a Finder window, a 3D drawer can store documents, folders and to aliases like docks and launchers usually are. This makes each 3D drawer store things:

- Instead of leaving things on your desktop, put them in a 3D drawer, and they'll be out of the way until you need them.
- Remember Pop-up Finder windows? They're back, except this time they're 3D.

A 3D drawer displays a 3D representation of the contents of a standard Finder window. Dragging an item to a 3D drawer is placed in the corresponding Finder folder. You can move, rename, delete, make aliases, just like in the Finder. Hit command-click to open in the Finder (when you want to see a list view).

When you drag items to a 3D space, use the option, control and command keys to choose whether to create an alias, make a copy, or move an item to 3D-space storage if you prefer to use 3D-Space VFS only as a traditional desktop.

Any items added to a 3D space's storage folder by another application will return to 3D-Space VFS. They'll be moving while the cursor is held still, with a white arrow pointing at each one.

Other features

Press the **⇧ Shift** key while dragging to disable magnification and prevent items from being deleted when something is dragged onto them. This is useful when rearranging items.

To delete an item, drag it to the recycle bin in the Mac OS X Dock, or simply press the **⌘ Delete** key.

Spring-loaded folders: Drag items to the icon of a 3D space and it springs open (or creates a new window if needed), then automatically closes when you release the mouse button.

Each item has a contextual menu which offers various operations to perform on the item or listing a folder's contents. And the **Preferences** panel lets you customize the graphics renderers, and further customize 3D-Space VFS.

Registration

You may register online at www.marcmoini.com/order.html . This page

registering by fax or postal mail.

Once you receive your license code, quit and restart 3D-Space VFS and enter the license code in the designated fields. Please spell your name exactly as it appears on the license code or postcard. This turns your evaluation copy of 3D-Space VFS into a full version. You can also stop the registration reminders.

A single user license costs \$29. License packs for five and ten users are available. All users living under the same roof only need a single license to run on their own computers.

Acknowledgments

3D-Space VFS uses Blackhole Media's UITextView, Copyright © 2002 by Troy Stephens, Thomas Schnitzer, David Remahl, Nathan Day, and the UKUpdateChecker by M. Uli Kusterer; the Jaguar shadow code by John and the Cocoa OpenGL sample code by Geoff Stahl.

Troubleshooting

Older graphics cards such as the Rage 128 are supported, but you may experience updates when dragging windows between windows. If you run out of VRAM, many windows obscured by other windows (or the Dock) should restore normal speed.

More information? Latest version? See www.marco

Email comments, suggestions and bug reports to marco and please mention "3dspace" in the subject line.