his section describes the various MacRTrace pull-menus (in the menu bar) and what they do.

The File Menu

The File menu allows you to open a new scene description, to save an image or animation file, or to quit from MacRTrace.   The menu options are:

Open scene file...

This prompts you for a scene description file (a text file ending in .sff or .scn). Use this when you want to tell MacRTrace which scene to render.

Save Image...

This allows you to save the image which MacRTrace has generated to a PICT file. Use this when MacRTrace has finished rendering an image, and you want to save it.

Quit

When you choose this option, MacRTrace aborts any rendering in progress and quits.   Use this option when you no longer want to use MacRTrace.

The Edit Menu

The Edit menu allows you to copy the image to the clipboard, or to change the preferences for MacRTrace.   All other options in the Edit menu are for compatibility with Desk Accessories only.   The only options you can use are:

opy

This option copies the current image from the Image Window to the clipboard. You can then paste the image into other applications.

Preferences...

This option brings up the Preferences Window, and allows you to change the preferences.   See Preferences Window

The Windows Menu

The Windows menu lets you show or hide any of the five major windows.   When a window is visible, its corresponding menu item will read "Show ... Window."

When it is not visible, the menu item will read "Hide ... Window." The available menu options are:

Show/Hide Options Window

This option will show or hide the Options Window. Hiding the Options Window during rendering can prevent the windows from cluttering up the screen. It has no impact on performance. See the Preferences section for information on how to automatically hide the Options Window during each rendering.

Show/Hide Status Window

This option will show or hide the Status Window. Since the Status Window provides continual feedback during scene reading and rendering, hiding it can speed things up significantly. However, it does give valuable information on how much MacRTrace has done, how much remains to be done, and how much memory is available. See the Preferences section for information on how to automatically show the Options Window during each render.

Show/Hide Log Window

This option will show or hide the Log Window. Since the Log Window provides some technical information feedback during scene reading and rendering, hiding it can speed thing up a little.

Show/Hide Animation Window

This option will show or hide the Animation Window. Generally, the Animation Window will show itself when necessary, and hide itself when it is no longer needed.

Show/Hide Image Window

This option will show or hide the Image Window. Since the Image Window is continuously updated during rendering, hiding it can speed thing up a little. See the Preferences section for information on how to automatically show the Image Window during each render.