

MacWasher™ Help File

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Overview of MacWasher

MacWasher is a very useful program for cleaning up the history of your activities on a Macintosh computer. Many people do not realize that MacOS and other software programs store information about what they have done, what applications they have launched, what documents they have used, what web sites they have visited, and various other activities they have performed. Therefore, anyone else can see what you have been doing on your Mac, which raises privacy concerns. Furthermore, much of your activity information takes up valuable disk space, and recovering this space can be very beneficial to Mac system performance.

Cleaning up the history of your activities can be a tedious chore of manually removing each history file or entry. If privacy and disk space are to be maintained, this process must be performed every time you use your Mac. MacWasher can automate this process for you! MacWasher's AutoWash will automatically run in the background and clean up whatever tracks you want removed, whenever you want. You can have MacWasher's AutoWash automatically clean your files when your Mac is Started or Shutdown, as well as scheduled "background" cleanings while you use your Mac.

MacWasher integrates with the standard MacOS places where your tracks are kept, such as the Recent Applications Folder, Recent Documents Folder, Temporary Files Folder, and the Trash Folder. It also integrates with popular programs like Netscape and Internet Explorer. What's more, with the flexible "Custom Wash Items" feature, you can specify other files and folders that you would like to have automatically cleaned!

Quick Start

After installing MacWasher, there will be a MacWasher folder on your desktop. Within the MacWasher folder you will find two applications: "MacWasher" and "MacWasher AutoWash". You may move these files anywhere on your Mac, as long as they are kept in the **same folder** with each other.

If you wish to have the "MacWasher", but not "MacWasher AutoWash" icon on your desktop, make an alias of the "MacWasher" icon (select the "MacWasher" icon, then press Command-M), then drag the resulting "MacWasher alias" icon to the desktop.

Double-click the "MacWasher" (or "MacWasher alias") icon to configure MacWasher's settings, test your settings with a "simulated" wash, perform an "actual" wash, and configure the powerful MacWasher AutoWash application.

For best results, when washing Netscape, Internet Explorer or AOL - America Online, these applications should not be running.

Automatic Wash Options

The MacWasher AutoWash application can be set to run automatically. There are 3 modes of Automatic washing: on MacOS Startup, on MacOS Shutdown, and at scheduled time intervals. Launch MacWasher to configure the AutoWash settings to run in any or all of these three modes.

Wash on MacOS Startup

Checking this box will cause MacWasher AutoWash to automatically clean up your selected items every time your Mac is Started.

Wash on MacOS Shutdown

Checking this box will cause MacWasher AutoWash to automatically clean up your selected items every time your Mac is Shutdown.

Scheduled Washing

Checking the "AutoWash Every" box automatically cleans up your selected items at the time interval indicated in the pull down menu. Using the pull down menu, you can select the time interval in which you would like MacWasher to clean your items. Time intervals range from every fifteen minutes to once a Month. Once you have selected a time, MacWasher AutoWash (if running) will clean your items automatically when the time is reached. NOTE: For AutoWash to remain running you must deselect the "Close AutoWash after a Wash" checkbox.

Bleaching Files

This option instructs MacWasher and AutoWash to "shred" the files it washes by overwriting the file a set number of times with random characters. This will render the files unrecoverable by utilities such as undelete and unerase. The default setting for bleach will overwrite a file 2 times, which is usually enough. The higher the number of overwrites, the longer the wash cycle will take. Overwriting a file 3 times respects the DOD 5220.22-M directive for sanitizing a file on a Non-Removable Rigid Disk or a Removable Rigid Disk. Overwriting a file 7 times respects the NSA approved seven-pass file erasure method. You can set the number of times to overwrite a file by picking from the pull down menu next to the "Add Bleach to Wash Items with Bleach Level" checkbox.

Verifying and Changing Default Directories

Each time you launch MacWasher it attempts to detect all the standard wash item folder locations, such as the Netscape or Internet Explorer user profile and cache folders. Clicking on the "Change Folders and Profiles" button will display a listing of all the detected paths to each standard wash item that is to be cleaned. Below is a list of the standard directories as detected on most (but not all) system configurations:

- Recent Documents: <system volume>:System Folder:Apple Menu Items:Recent Documents
- Recent Applications: <system volume>:System Folder:Apple Menu Items:Recent Applications
- Temporary Files Folder: <system volume>:System Folder:Temporary Items
- Trash Folder: <system volume>:Trash
- Netscape User Profile: <system volume>:System Folder:Preferences:Netscape **f or**
Netscape User Profile: <system volume>:System Folder:Preferences:Netscape Users:<username>
- Internet Explorer User Profile: <system volume>:System Folder:Preferences:Explorer
- Internet Explorer Cache: <system volume>:System Folder:Preferences:MS Internet Cache

To change any of the above detected folders, simply click on the "Change" button located next to the folder. Under Easy Setup pick a profile off the pull down menu and then click "Choose this Profile", or for the Advanced Setup, browse to the new folder and click on "Choose Selected Folder".

To go back to the original settings click the "Re-Detect All" button. When you are through verifying or changing your default directories, click "Done".

Standard Wash Items

These are items that are automatically integrated into MacWasher. These items include Recent Documents, Recent Applications, Temporary Files Folder, MacsBug StdLog Files, Trash Folder, Netscape, Internet Explorer, and America Online.

MacOS Recent Documents

This Standard Wash Item cleans the history of recent documents that you have opened. The document history is stored under the MacOS Apple Menu under the Recent Documents menu item.

MacOS Recent Applications

This Standard Wash Item cleans the history of recent applications that you have launched. The application history is stored under the MacOS Apple Menu under the Recent Applications menu item.

MacOS Temporary Files Folder

This Standard Wash Item cleans the temporary files folder.

MacsBug StdLog Files

This Standard Wash Item cleans any StdLog files that it finds on your desktop. Please note that in order to preserve needed StdLog files after a system crash this Standard Wash Item is not performed by AutoWash at MacOS Startup.

MacOS Trash Folder

This Standard Wash Item empties the Trash can.

Netscape

If you have Netscape installed on your system, you can use this option to clean up Netscape cookies, cache, history, and mailbox trash. Clicking the "Options" button next to the Netscape checkbox will bring up a sub menu allowing you to select which Netscape items you would like cleaned: cookies, cache, history, and/or mailbox trash. There is also an option to exclude cookies from being washed, "Cookies to Keep." This option is helpful if you visit sites that store useful cookies that you wish to keep. NOTE: You must close Netscape before MacWasher will be able to clean the Netscape History items.

Internet Explorer

If you have Internet Explorer v5.0 installed on your system, you can use this option to clean up Internet Explorer cookies, cache, download folder, and history. (If you are using Explorer v4.5, use the AOL Cookies to Keep Option. AOL's browser is built on Internet Explorer v4.5, therefore, they share the Cookie file. For all other IE settings use the Internet Explorer Options dialog.) Clicking the "Options" button next to the Internet Explorer checkbox will bring up a sub menu allowing you to select which Internet Explorer items you would like cleaned: cookies, cache, download folder, and/or history. There is also an option to exclude cookies from being washed, "Cookies to Keep." This option is helpful if you visit sites that store useful cookies that you wish to keep. NOTE: You must close Internet Explorer before MacWasher can perform a wash.

AOL - America Online

If you have AOL installed on your system, you can use this option to clean up the cookies, cache, download folder, and history. AOL's browser is built on Internet Explorer v4.5 and they share the same Cookie file. Therefore, the Cookies to Keep options you set affect both AOL and Internet Explorer v4.5 Cookies. Clicking the "Options" button next to the AOL checkbox will bring up a sub menu allowing you to select which items you would like cleaned: cookies, cache, download folder, and/or history. There is also an option to exclude cookies from being washed, "Cookies to Keep." This option is helpful if you visit sites that store useful cookies that you wish to keep. NOTE: You must close AOL or Internet Explorer v4.5 before MacWasher can perform a wash.

Custom Wash Items

Custom Wash Items give you the flexibility of adding files and folders to be automatically cleaned for you. NOTE: MacWasher attempts to protect the integrity of your Mac by refusing to wash items in certain MacOS System folders. However, it is your responsibility to verify that your Custom Wash Items do not include folders, subfolders, and files that you do not wish to permanently delete from your Mac. This MacWasher feature is as powerful as MacOS Finder, thus you must take the same care to prevent the deletion of files that you do not wish to permanently delete from your Mac.

Adding or Editing Custom Wash Items

Click the "Add" button if you wish to add a new Custom Wash Item. If you wish to edit a Custom Wash Item, highlight the item on the Custom Wash Items menu and then click the "Edit" button.

RENAME - click the "Rename" button to change the name of the Custom Wash Item.

FOLDERS TAB - click this tab to select Folders to add to this Custom Wash Item. Browse through your Mac by clicking on the Finder-like folder browser. Select a folder to add to this Custom Wash Item. If you want MacWasher to wash the selected folder's subfolders (all of the subfolders, recursively), check the "Include All SubFolders" checkbox. If you do not want MacWasher to wash the selected folder's subfolders, make certain that the "Include All SubFolders" checkbox is not checked. Click the "Add Selected Folder" button to add the selected folder to the Custom Wash Item.

FILES TAB - click this tab to select Files to add to the Custom Wash Item. Browse through your Mac by clicking on the Finder-like file browser. Select a file to add to this Custom Wash Item. Click the "Add Selected File" button to add the selected file to the Custom Wash Item.

REMOVE SELECTED - To remove folders or files from your cleaning list, select the folder and/or file in your "Files and Paths that will be washed" list and then click on the "Remove Selected" button.

DONE - click the "Done" button when finished.

Deleting Custom Wash Items

To delete a Custom Wash Item from your list, click on the item you wish to delete and then click the "Delete" button.

Washing and Simulated Washing

Click the "Wash Now" button located at the bottom-left of the main window in order to begin a Wash or a Simulated Wash. A Simulated Wash goes through the process of washing your Mac without actually deleting anything. Simulated Washes allow you to "test" your configuration before actually deleting any files. Additionally, a Simulated Wash will let you know approximately how much disk space will be recovered after a wash. To perform an actual wash, click the "Wash Now" button in the Wash Status window. You will see each and every file cleaned as MacWasher washes (or simulates washing) your selected items.

Uninstaller

To remove MacWasher from your Mac, run the MacWasher Uninstaller program. This program will remove MacWasher and the MacWasher AutoWash from your Startup Items, Shutdown Items, Launcher Items, Apple Menu Items, and Preferences folders. After running the uninstaller, put the MacWasher folder and its remaining contents into the Trash.

Technical Support

Webroot Software answers all technical support questions by email. All questions will be answered as soon as possible, but please allow up to 48 hours for a response. To help our support staff analyze the problem and provide the quickest response possible, please include the following information in your email:

- The full software title and version with which you are experiencing trouble.
- The name and version number of the browser that you are using (Internet Explorer, Netscape, AOL, etc.)
- General system information such as which MacOS version you use, whether your system is set up for single or multiple users, etc.
- Your full name, order number, if any, and email address.
- Complete details of the problem, including any error messages that appear. Please be as specific as possible.

Please email your technical support questions to: support@webroot.com.

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Acknowledgements

MacWasher was originally developed for Webroot Software, Inc. by Trexar, Inc. Continued development of MacWasher by Always Thinking, Inc.

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