

Welcome to Incognito 1.1, a complete rewrite of Incognito 1.0. New features of Incog 1.1 include type-specific masking, 'safe unregistration', and a new interface for choosing entities to mask. Although a bit more difficult to use than Incognito 1.0b1, the new power of type-specific masking should be worth the bother.

Incognito is freeware. Feel free to distribute it far and wide. Send me a postcard if you like it. Large cash payments are encouraged. The source code is available upon request.

Thanks to the MAUG sysops and archive.umich.edu for having the guts to allow Incognito 1.0b1 into their libraries. Thanks also to those who wished me luck, but wished to be unnamed (you know who you are).

What is Incognito?

Incognito is a control panel and system extension that allows you to bypass that annoying, network-based serial number protection that seems to be the Hot New Thing in copy protection. The theory is simple: when you buy a product, you get a serial number with the product that you enter the first time you start the program. The program then uses this serial number to register itself on the network, guaranteeing that there is only one copy of that particular program running.

While this is an admirable attempt by software publishers to preserve their sales, it becomes frustrating in the following situation: you have five licenced copies of Photoshop™, but ten machines. What happens if three copies of Photoshop™ are running, you try and launch one and that copy is already in use? Obviously, you don't want to dump five copies of Photoshop™ on each machine, so you fire up file sharing, figure out which copy isn't running, and copy it to your local machine. What a PITA.

With Incognito running, the situation is simplified. After setting up Incognito to mask your copies of Photoshop™, just launch any Photoshop™ and it will run. Then, install a licence-management system like KeyServer™ to insure you don't exceed your licence and you're golden.

Note that Incognito masks names on a single machine only. To be able to mask across a network effectively, Incognito and its associated prefs file should be installed on each machine. This is because each running copy of Photoshop will try and register the serial number; since the registration is machine-based, Incognito has to be machine-based also.

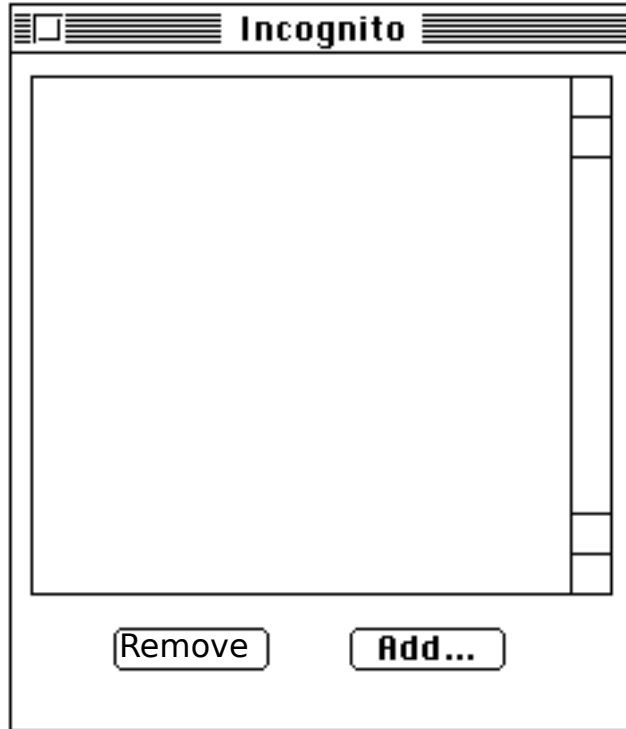
Using Incognito

Using Incognito is relatively simple. Drop Incog on your system folder, and restart. Upon startup, you should see Incog's startup icon in your INIT parade:

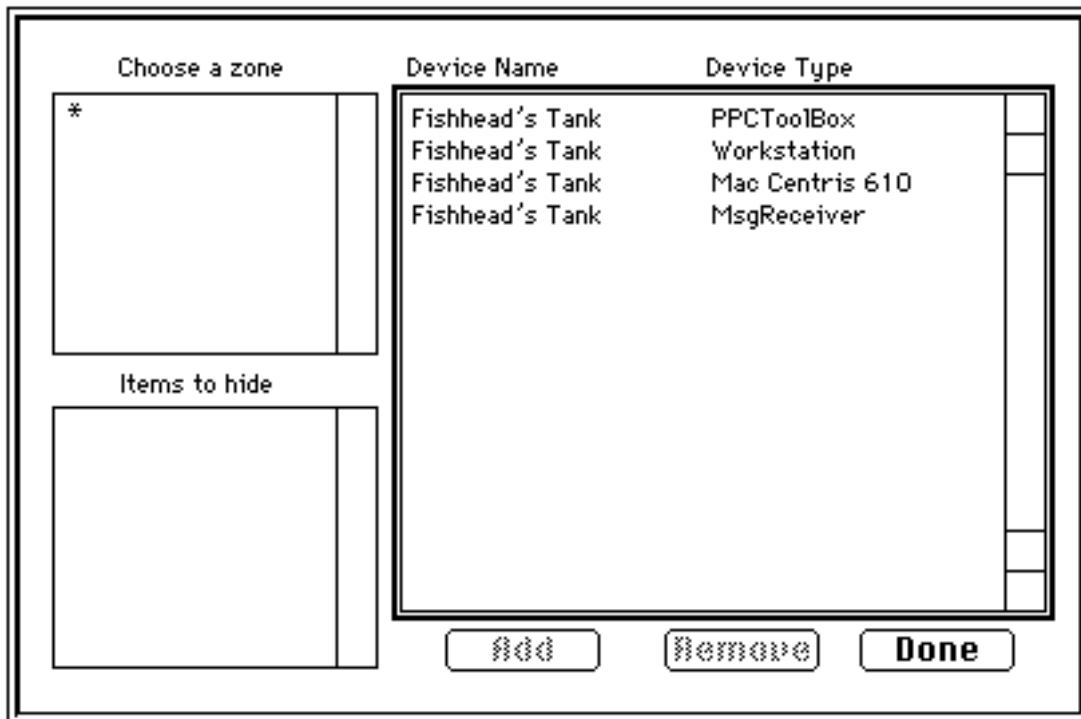


If for some reason Incog doesn't start up, a red line will be splayed across the icon.

To get Incognito to actually do anything, first run the program that you want to mask. Then, go to the Control Panels folder and open up Incognito. You should see something like the following:



To add an item, click on the Add... button or type 'a'. Incognito will display the familiar Chooser™ style window:



On the left are the zones in your network ("*" being the current zone) and the items which are to

be masked. On the right is a list of all the entities currently in the selected zone. To mask an item, select it in the name list on the right, and click the Add button. It will pop into the "Items to hide" list on the left. When you're finished, click done. Restart your computer, and all the items to be masked will be masked.

If you're using Incognito in a user network and don't want users to change the masked entities, you can rip out the 'cdev' resource with ResEdit. You can copy the Incognito Prefs file from machine to machine, so you don't have to set up Incognito on each machine.

Note that some entities register themselves at startup time, before Incognito loads. If you want to mask these items, make sure Incognito loads before them.

Technical Notes

For all of you who want to know what's going on, here's the scoop. Incognito only patches one trap: `_Control`. It checks to see if the driver refNum is the appletalk driver (fff6), and if the csCode is registerName, lookupName, confirmName, or removeName. If it's one of those four, it does it's funky stuff to see if the thing being registered is maskable. If it is maskable, the string gets munged and stored. At unregistration, the process repeats itself. Unlike Incog 1.0b1, however, when unregistering an entity the string is mapped to its munged value instead of passed through (yes, Quark is now handled by Incognito).

Also, when you run the Control Panel and add an item, the AppleTalk™ self-send is turned on. This may disturb some programs. This only happens when the item chooser is activated ("Add...").

Incognito should work under all script systems, and requires System 7 or greater to run.

I don't recommend running Incog on PPC systems, since the performance hit due to mode switching could seriously slow down your machine. It should work, though.

Other

Incognito has been running for quite a while on my system (Centris 610, 28" of inits, 7Pro) with no ill effects. That doesn't mean, however, that it's perfect. If you have any problems, feel free to contact me at the addresses below.

Legal stuff

By using Incognito, you agree never to sue (or initiate any kind of legal action against) me, Manuel Veloso, the author, for anything having to do with Incognito. You also agree to an absolute waiver of liability for any damage caused by Incognito, might be caused by Incognito, or caused by something which interacted with Incognito. Please follow all applicable copyright laws when using this software, especially those contained in Title 17. Have a nice day.

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Contacting me

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Note that the source code should be available on mac.archive.umich.edu, MACDEV, and (if they allow its submission) the AOL development forum. It should also be in the alt.sources.mac archive.