

Miscellaneous

Apple's eWorld On-line Night Lights

eWorld Code Name: Aladdin

In eWorld's Town Square window, if you clicked in the extreme upper-left hand corner, it changed to a night scene. This worked for version 1.1 and possibly other versions. Sadly though, after April 1st this easter egg was put to rest with eWorld's end. I guess it would be too much to ask for a moment of silence. Oh well...

Apple's Silicon Valley (Finder)

System 7 Finder Code Name: Furnishings 2000 (a defunct Bay Area furniture store)

This is the most famous, and probably the oldest easter egg released by Apple.

When holding down the Option key while in the Finder, go up to what would normally be "About This Macintosh..." in the Apple Menu. Instead, it will say "About The Finder...". Click on that and you will see a picture; after a while it will give a list of credits at the bottom. If the Finder is past version 7.0 and the creation date of the invincible "Desktop Folder" is May 13, 1991 or later, it will have credits for all of those who created the Finder from the Lisa on. If Balloon Help is turned on, the drop-menu says "Displays a dialog with the original Finder picture." By holding down Command and Option you will see a wacky cursor. The black and white picture is of Silicon Valley. It is the original picture from System 1.0.

🔥 Apple believed MacOS8 was the greatest thing to happen to the Mac since 1984. Thinking out with the old, in with new, MacOS8 engineers made a brand new Silicon Valley to replace the old black and white one. You will notice that at the end of the credits, after the Special Thanks, the employees who lost their jobs after the restructuring are listed.

Never To Be

Provided by Jack Frost (jfrost@crl.com)

This picture you see below was going to replace the current black and white Silicon Valley, described above, in Copland. It looks excellent in thousands or millions of colors. I was only able to put in here at 256 because of the space it took up. The picture was never put in and was traded for the graphic you see now in MacOS8.

Animal Crackers
Adam Lang (thalen@cs.pdx.edu) sent me a letter saying that

supposedly there was going to be a QuickTime movie addition to the "About the Finder..." window. It was going to be part of the ROMs of the Macs around the time System 7 was developed. You'd have to hold down something like D and C when you selected "About The finder..". It then took the regular black and white landscape you see under "About The finder..." (before OS8) and would zoom back away from it until you discover what it really is: the back of a giant dogcow! Then the credits roll...

Sadly though, there wasn't space to put it into the ROMs. 🐉 On the brighter side of things, there is an extension which patches your System that has the DogCow movie and will run the egg. The extension, "Clarus-The Tail Patch", was made in 1991 by David Ewing and Tim Senecal.

Joy!

From: Alex Morando (AMORAN@aol.com)

If you open most native/fat applications using a text editor, you will see "Joy!" at the beginning of the data fork.

I have found that "Joy" is used by the Code Fragment Manager to determine that subsequent data is PowerPC code.

🐁Mickey

From: Jeffrey Wheeler (WHEELER@JCVAXA.jcu.edu)

Ever notice that the 'mcky' resource in the System file, among other places, has the picture of a mouse? I'll let you draw your own connections.

Mood Swings (System 7.5)

From: Michael Ring (MRING101@aol.com)

After restarting and holding down the Apple-Option keys to rebuild your desktop you will see the "Are you sure you want to rebuild your desktop?" window pop up. Before clicking "Cancel" let's do a little exploring...

Under the Apple menu (it will be grayed), there is simple a lowercase "p". Heading over to the Edit menu we will find an "m" at the very bottom of the window. And finally, our travels bring us to an "s" in the Special menu. The problem with acronyms is that they can mean so many different things...

Also, In the Labels menu beside each color is a single letter. Those letters spell out "alanjef" vertically. To get more info on this, go to "Labels" in the Control Panels chapter.

ative Mode

Hold down Option and Shift when getting info. on a native Power PC application in System 7.5. You will then see a list of credits of those who provide native mode.

RamDoubler Native Power PC Program Get Info Trick

From: Chaz Larson (chazl@leonardo.lmt.com)

...and: Matvey Palchuk (mapst57@vms.cis.pitt.edu)

I am aware that this is from RAMDoubler, but I have received so many messages regarding the egg I decided to include it. While using RamDoubler and selecting a native PPC application, hold down Command-Option and get info. for the application. You will see at the bottom of the info window: "Note: Sleep is a poor substitute for caffeine!" This only persists for the initial display; if you cover the info window with another window and then uncover it, the text will revert to its normal note about different memory requirements with VM on or off. Be sure to hold down Command-Option and then let go once the window is up.

The egg varies with versions as to whether you can only hold down Option-Command-I to see the egg or you can just hold down Option and select "Get Info..." from the pulldown menu.


Recurring Oddities

The following icons can be found in the resources of many things. The sifter was taken out of the ROM of a Performa 6115 (using ROMmie), the QuickTime extension, and the System File. All of these can be found in the Systems and ROMs of most computers under the same ID's in the ICON resource. To clear things up, there is a hardware component known as the mixer, and if you take a look at "System Resources", in the chapter "Current System Eggs", you will see a reference to the fridge. In that chapter, under "Also Appearing...", is a reference to the sifter.

16557

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 I received this explanation of the odd icons and terms seen above and in the "Current System Eggs" chapter from Scott L. Barber (serker@dialnet.net):

There is a definite link between the icons and "what Jim Reekes thinks of Apple Hardware". When Apple machines roll off of the production lines, the hardware diagnostics are tested with whatever version of the system software is linked to the ROM (7.5.2 for the new machines). During this process, if one of the chips fails, the system actually throws up a dialog box with the picture of the fridge and the error "-6580: This is glue between..."

You have to understand, with each production model, the engineered area on the motherboards changes, as well as the type or manufacturer of the chips themselves. With all these changes, one thing remains the same - the process by which the system calls this hardware.

Troubleshooting production models is much easier to do if the engineers know the problem is with the AWACS chip or the ASC chip, but throwing up a dialog that says "Error -6583: Sound Not Initialized" just doesn't help crews discover the problem quickly, or even help to troubleshoot which chip or board trace is affected. At least this way, with the pictures, the error code explains not only that the ASC chip is down, but that the error may be occurring AROUND the ASC chip instead of within the sound components themselves. This is an example of a more intelligent human interface for diagnostics.

Now, following Apple human interface guidelines, all dialog boxes must have icons (at least, if you get sarcastically technical enough about it, you can justify it) so they made icons to comply with guidelines. My guess is that it's easier for employees to sort motherboard problems during mass assembly by dialog icon if there is an error. But you will notice that none of the resource icons are in color, or have extremely high definitions - they're just 1-bit icons. This cuts down on size, and gets straight to the point.

Jim Reekes was one of the engineers (sound of course) that actually

made it to the production levels and sat around explaining how the hardware worked by using analogies. As with all internal codes at Apple - his explanations caught on within the division, and the joke was expanded into an 'easier to use diagnostic interface' (which has of course been expanded by Apple to include coffee cups and butter knives, among other things).

Unique Alias Error Message

Set the Alias flag and unset the Inited flag of a program (which is not an alias). Do this with ResEdit when you get info for the program, whatever it may be. The result is a unique message about the problem. I included this because it is one of the few errors that is odd enough to say "oops!". It is also very hard to trigger without ResEdit.