

Egging

Egging is not hard. It takes a bit of time, creativity, and knowledge of your Mac, but the result is often rewarding.

BEGINNER: SIMPLE EGGING

The easiest way to egg is to hold down the buttons Shift, Option, Command, Control, and Caps Lock all at once. Then, find an application or Control Panel made by Apple, open it, and hold these buttons down while getting info. on it. If something unusual happens, begin the process of elimination until you can figure which keys are needed for the egg to work.

Click in random places inside the about boxes and use balloon help often. Let anything like icons, pictures, or version numbers be your victim, not just in about boxes, but anywhere. After you have read a few of the eggs in this file, your job is clear.

ADVANCED: SNOOPING

Programmers like to keep some of their eggs in secret from the general public's prying eyes—kind of like an "inside joke"—while they leave a permanent mark at the same time. So, the programmers stuff their names into "no man's land," a place few people besides programmers and hackers are familiar with. This is also a safe place to keep the easter eggs from conflicting with another program. Remember, Apple discourages easter eggs for that very reason. In order to dig into the computer, we need a few tools...

CanOpener - This program will take any program or file and divide it into text, sounds, icons, and pictures. The text is all code that can be found in ResEdit, mashed together in one big page. This is helpful for searching the entire resource fork. CanOpener will also extract text not in the code which is probably its best feature along with the fact that it will extract many different types of images. Besides that, it is fast and has a pleasing interface, but it doesn't do anything really important. CanOpener is commercial but fairly cheap.

ResEdit - ResEdit will allow you to view the guts of the victim application. Once opening anything with ResEdit you can make it visible (Get Info. in File Menu), change the resource fork, and do a great deal of things that can potentially damage the application. The best places to look are in the PICT, SND, TEXT, STR, STR#, and ic18 resources. Take a look at other easter eggs to get an idea of where to search. Be careful. This program saves as it

goes. If your computer crashes while using it, everything you did is saved. ResEdit is free and available at Apple's web site. Some people also prefer Resorcerer, a similar program to ResEdit.

ROMmie - This program will tear apart your ROM into a broken-down text file of your ROM, a ResEdit file, and a dump (good luck getting this 3 meg file open—use BBEdit). Version 1.0 failed on my Macintosh with System 7.5.1 but worked fine on a Performa 6115 with System 7.5 and worked in MacOS8. This program is free but hard to find. You can download it at my web site.

MacsBug - This program will confuse the hell out of you. See the "Going On" chapter to read about it. This program is free and is available on Apple's ftp site.

Norton Disk Editor - This application comes with Norton Utilities, a commercial program. Unlike ResEdit, it allows you to edit sectors, jumbled text, and symbols. It combines all of the file's resources and more. You will never use this as a practical file, but it is great to use while just snooping through your system and Apple applications for easter eggs. Besides, Norton Utilities is a great program to own, so this is just one more reason to buy it.

Any universal text reader - BBEdit Lite (it's shareware!) works best. Drag any program onto BBEdit and you will be able to read the hidden text in the file. You can also search the text.

Knowing how to use the above programs is not simple. I don't know most of them. However, I do know how to use them to find easter eggs, which takes little knowledge. It would take a long time to explain how to use each of the programs for other uses, but it should be very easy to search for eggs. Take a look at some of the easter eggs that use these programs. If you have the time, explore with them. It's not that hard. Have fun!