

Print Window 2.0.2

©2002 SearchWare Solutions
All Rights Reserved
<http://www.swsoftware.com>

What is Print Window?

Under Mac OS Classic, the Finder provides the user with an option to print the contents of a window containing a list of files. This functionality can be useful under many circumstances. However, this option is not available to the Mac OS X Finder. Currently, Mac OS X users must instead use the Windows-like method of taking a screenshot of the window in question and printing that picture—a tedious process which isn't very good because of the extra steps involved and the fact that you might not be able to take a screenshot of all the files in the window at once anyway.

Print Window 2.0 is designed to fill in for this missing functionality. It is an application which runs in the background and waits until the user needs to print the contents of a Finder window. When the time does come, Print Window 2.0 offers even more functionality than Mac OS Classic's Finder does!

Installing Print Window

Drag the Print Window folder into your Applications folder, or anywhere else on your hard drive that you would like to have it stored. Note that although Print Window will function perfectly no matter where you keep the application stored, if you want to make use of Print Window's Services support it *must* be stored in the system's Applications folder.

Upgrading from a previous version of Print Window

Please note that Print Window 2.0 makes some fundamental changes in how the software operates. It is highly recommended that you *delete* any previous versions of Print Window from your hard drive before using Print Window 2.0. Also note that, Print Window 2.0 changes the preferences file format. If a preferences file from a previous version of Print Window is found, it will be automatically deleted the first time Print Window 2.0 is launched.

How do I use Print Window?

Printing the contents of a Finder window is a simple process which is made even simpler in Version 2.0! In fact, there are four convenient ways to print a file listing:

Services

Print Window 2.0 now offers Mac OS X Services support (a much-requested feature). To print a file listing using Services, select a folder (in Column View) or open the folder you wish to print a listing of in a new Finder window (Icon and List View). Then, simply select **Services** from the **Finder** menu and select **Print File Listing** from the submenu that appears.

Command-P

First, open the window in the Finder whose contents you wish to print. This window can be in any of the three views that the Mac OS X Finder offers (Icon, List, Column—note that if the

window is in Column view, you must have the folder whose contents you want to print selected in the active column, otherwise Print Window will not work correctly). Then, simply press Command-P (just as you would to print from any other application).

File Menu

Click on the Print Window icon in the Dock to bring Print Window to the front. Then, select "Print Folder Listing..." from the "File" menu. Then, select the folder you want to print a listing in the window that appears.

Drag and Drop

Drag the folder whose contents you want to print onto the Print Window icon in the Dock.

Once Print Window knows what folder you want to print the contents of (by using one of the four methods listed above), the Print Options window will appear:

printwindow.gif "

This window will allow you to decide exactly how you want your file listing formatted when printed. The various options control different aspects of the print formatting.

Layout Group

Style: Use this popup menu to select what type of print you would like to make. Print Window 2.0 offers two options:

- "File List" is very similar to the Finder's List View. It prints four columns of data. The first column contains the file's icon (if enabled) and name. The second column is the file's type. The third column is the file's size. The fourth column is the file's modification date.
- "Names Only" is the same layout as offered by Print Window 1.0 by default. This shows only the file's icon and name and no other information.

It should be noted that the "Names Only" format prints much faster than the "File List" style because Print Window has that much less information to handle. However, with Version 2.0, speed of the the "File List" style has greatly improved.

Automatically Expand Folders: This option is probably the most powerful feature of Print Window 2.0. Unlike the Mac OS Classic Finder, this option causes all files within the folder displayed in the Finder window to be printed, even if they are located within subfolders. This list will be presented hierarchically, with files that are in subfolders indented to indicate how deep in the hierarchy they are located. Something to be aware of, however, is that, depending on how many subfolders you have, this option can greatly increase the time it takes to print.

Limit to: If "Automatically Expand Folders" is selected, this option will limit how deep Print Window will continue to expand the folder hierarchy. Anything deeper than the number of levels set here will not be printed. If this option is selected, the most levels you can select to print is 10.

Number of Columns: Another advantage of Print Window over the Mac OS Classic Finder's print function is that you can have your listing span multiple columns on the same page. This helps to save paper for really long listings. This number can be anywhere between one and four. This option is not available when the "File List" style is selected.

Headers Group

Include Headers: This option will cause a heading to be printed at the top of each page. This heading contains the name of the window being printed and the page number. It will also print column headers in the "File List" style (Name, Type, Size, Modified Date).

Print Date: When selected, this option will cause the date and time the file listing was generated to be printed in the lower-left corner of each page of the file listing.

Print Full Path: When selected, this option will cause the full path of the root folder of the file listing to be printed in the lower-right corner of each page of the file listing.

Icons Group

Include Icons: When checked, this option will cause the icon of each file and folder to be printed in the listing along with the name.

Icon Size: When "Include Icons" is checked, this option determines how large the icon will be when printed. You have a choice between the four major icon sizes (16x16, 32x32, 48x48 and 128x128). Obviously, the larger the icon, the fewer number of items can be printed on any one page.

Use as Defaults: When this option is selected, any settings you have selected in the Print Options window become the default settings. The next time you print a file listing, these options will be the defaults.

Once you have made any changes to the print settings, click the "Print" button. The page setup dialog will appear. Make any appropriate changes and click the "OK" button. The print dialog will then appear. Select the printer you wish the listing to be sent to and make any other changes and click "Print". Print Window will then process the files shown in the Finder window and send the finished listing to the printer. After the print job is complete, Print Window returns to the background until you need to print another file listing.

Preferences

New to Version 2.0 of Print Window is a separate Preferences window that allows you to configure certain settings that apply to Print Window in general and not just specific file listings.

Respond to Command-P in Finder: When this option is selected, Print Window will respond to the Command-P keystroke when the Finder is the frontmost application.

Respond to Drag onto Dock: When this option is selected, Print Window will respond when a folder icon is dragged onto the Print Window icon in the Dock. Note that this option will also affect how Print Window responds when a folder icon is dragged onto its icon in the Finder.

Launch at Login: When selected, Print Window will be added to the login items list for the current user, causing Print Window to automatically launch when the user logs in.

Finder to Front after Launch: This option, when selected, will cause the Finder to

automatically become the active application immediately after Print Window launches.

Quit when Printing is Complete: This option, when selected, will cause Print Window to automatically quit when Print Window is done generating a file listing.

Condensed Spacing: This option, when selected, will cause file listings to take up less vertical space on the printed page by limiting the amount of space between lines. This option only has an effect on file listings that do not include icons. If icons are printed, line spacing will stay the same regardless of this setting.

These preferences take effect immediately when the Preferences window is closed.

A Couple of Important Notes

There are a couple of items you need to keep in mind when using Print Window 2.0:

- When printing the Full List (not Names Only) style, the size and kind information for the files may not exactly match what is displayed in the Finder. The Finder displays the file size adjusted for the volume's block allocation size (on HFS+ volumes, this is 4K). So files may appear larger in the Finder than they really are. Print Window prints the actual size of the file.
- In column view, Print Window will print the contents of the currently selected folder in the active column (the column with the focus-ring). Note that in some situations, it might be possible that a folder is not selected in column view and a file may be selected instead. Print Window will generate an error message in this situation.
- It is not currently possible to directly print the contents of the Desktop. Instead, to print the contents of the Desktop, it must be opened in a Finder window by navigating to the "Desktop" folder in the user's Home folder.
- It is not currently possible to print the contents of the "Computer" window.

Legal Disclaimer

This software is provided AS IS. I make no warranties in regards to the use of this software. I have done my best to make sure that this software is bug-free and it should not cause any problems with your computer, however, as with all software of this nature, use it at your own risk. I am not responsible for any damage or other hardship that is caused in relation to the use of this software. If you do not agree to these terms, DO NOT USE THIS SOFTWARE! Use of this software is considered agreement to the aforementioned terms.

Licensing Information

Print Window is DonationWare. You may use Print Window free of charge until your heart's content with no further obligation. However, if you like Print Window and would like to support future development of Print Window and other great software, please consider making a \$5 or \$10 donation to SearchWare Solutions by visiting <http://www.swssoftware.com/products/printwindow.html>. These donations will help encourage development of future versions of Print Window and other great software from SearchWare Solutions and are greatly appreciated.

Feel free to distribute this software as you like, with no restrictions, other than you may only distribute the original archive, and not the individual files contained therein. Feel free to place this software on any software compilation, for-profit or otherwise. The only thing I ask is that if Print Window is included on a for-profit software compilation (such as those CDs distributed with magazines), please e-mail me letting me know that you are including the software.

Version History

Version 2.0.2 - Fixed a bug that caused Print Window to crash under certain circumstances when the "Cancel" button in the "Print Options" window was crashed. Added an option to reduce line spacing in file listing formats. Made some minor interface changes to the "Preferences" window. Made some "under-the-hood" code improvements to improve general stability and to allow easier addition of future changes. Fixed some factual errors in the Read Me file.

Version 2.0.1 - Fixed a bug that caused text to be incorrectly spaced under page headers when a "Full List" layout was printed with "Include Icons" turned off. Print Window now correctly stops printing a listing when the "Stop" button is pushed.

Version 2.0 - Added Services support. Print Window is now an application bundle (to support Services). Revamped interface to modernize it and make it more Aqua compliant. File listing generation speed greatly improved (up to 50% faster depending on size of listing). File type in "Full List" layout now matches what is displayed in Finder List View and Get Info windows. Print Window is now much more accurate in determining if a file is a bundle or not. Added ability to print full pathname of printed folder and date and time of printout to file listings. New preferences window with new preference options added. Print Window now supports Core Foundation Preference handling (old preference files no longer function and will be deleted). Changed method of setting defaults (new "Use as Defaults" checkbox in main window). Print Window can now add itself to the "Login Items" panel in "System Preferences". Print Window now remembers window position. Print Window can now check for new versions of itself (Internet connection required). Fixed a bug that caused incorrect headers to be printed in Names Only layout. Fixed a rare bug that could cause Print Window to crash when printing a Names Only layout with long file names.

Version 1.5.1 - Fixed problems with icons larger than 32x32 not printing correctly. Hopefully fixed problems with printing listings of networked volumes and CD-ROMs causing a crash.

Version 1.5 - Added ability to call Print Window directly from the Finder by pressing Command-P (Print Window must be running in the background for this to work). Print Window no longer will try to print when icon is clicked in the Dock. Added ability to limit how many levels deep the "Expand Folders" will print. Added ability to set preferences directly from Application Menu. Added ability to print the contents of a folder from the "File" menu. Revamped Print Options window interface. "Under the hood" optimizations of print engine for both "Full List" and "Names Only" styles. Several bug fixes. Spiffy new icon!

Version 1.1 - Added option to switch between the original "Names Only" layout and the new "Full List" layout. Printed filenames now display according to the user's filename extension preferences. Mac OS X Package files are now treated as files rather than folders (as they should be). Minor interface adjustments in the Print Options window. StandardAlert now used for error dialog. Added about window.

Version 1.0 - Initial Release