Before You Start

If you are using anti-viral software such as GateKeeper or SAM which continuously monitors for unusual activity you should turn it off or set up exceptions for UpdateMaker. The UpdateMaker application protects itself against virus infection.

Making Updates

To make an update file, first open UpdateMaker. Click on Cancel when it asks what UpdateMaker file you would like to open. Then choose New from the File menu, and the Update Specifications dialog will be displayed. Click on Choose Files...   Select the old file that the update is to apply to and click Old File. Then select the new file that the update is to convert the old file into, and click New File.   Click Done once you are satisfied with your choices. Enter any remarks about the update that you would like users to see into the Notes for Users box, then click Make Update and UpdateMaker will start building the update document.

This may take some minutes, depending on the size of the files and the extent of the differences between them. UpdateMaker will do the build in the background if you want to use another application while you are waiting. When it is finished, choose Save from the File menu and fill in the Save dialog box. Here is where you can click the Save As Application check-box if you wish to save the document as a stand-alone application.

Using Updates

To use an update document, simply open it. If you wish to see more information about the document (some of which is rather technical), click the Show Description check-box. When you are ready to apply the update, click Update. Use the dialog to select the file to be updated. UpdateMaker will only show you files of the appropriate type. Click the Update It button. Use the next dialog to select where the updated version is to be put. Note that the old file will not be altered or deleted unless you specifically ask for it to be replaced, and that UpdateMaker will always initially suggest a non-conflicting name in the same folder.

Running out of Memory

UpdateMaker can require a lot of memory if asked to update large documents – for example, 500K Word documents. It may need space equal to the sum of the sizes of the old file and the UpdateMaker document plus 600K to perform an update, and more to build a new document. If UpdateMaker fails because there is not enough memory, you can allocate more by using the Get Info command under the File menu in the Finder.

Expert Build Options

The Show Expert Options checkbox in the Update Specifications dialog displays three sets of controls that can be used to override UpdateMaker's normal behaviour. For example, they allow you to generate updates for applications which have been customised by their users (often by recording their name and organisation in the application's startup screen). Do not use these controls unless you understand what they do. The "always copy" options in particular must be used with care, because they override UpdateMaker's normal guarantee that the updated file will be identical to the original "new" file. If you do use these options, UpdateMaker will remember them and recall them the next time you make an update for the same type of file.