SurfTunes

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INTRODUCTION

SurfTunes is a browser-based CD audio player for the MacOS. With it you can build sophisticated web interfaces that play, stop, pause, navigate, and adjust the volume of CD audio - right from the comfort of your favorite browser. Furthermore, SurfTunes gives you the added ability to control CD audio from the location/address field of your browser, in effect, giving you a "command line"-type interface with CD audio.

INSTRUCTIONS

Because SurfTunes use varies from user to user, a small amount of preparation must go into its setup. Simply follow these steps:

1.) Register your browser(s) with the SurferTunes CD Protocol.
        SurferTunes implements a CD audio protocol for use with browsers. To use it, your browser must know that SurfTunes will handle all CD protocol information. This requires "registering" your browser with the CD protocol. The method of registering your browser depends on your choice of browser.
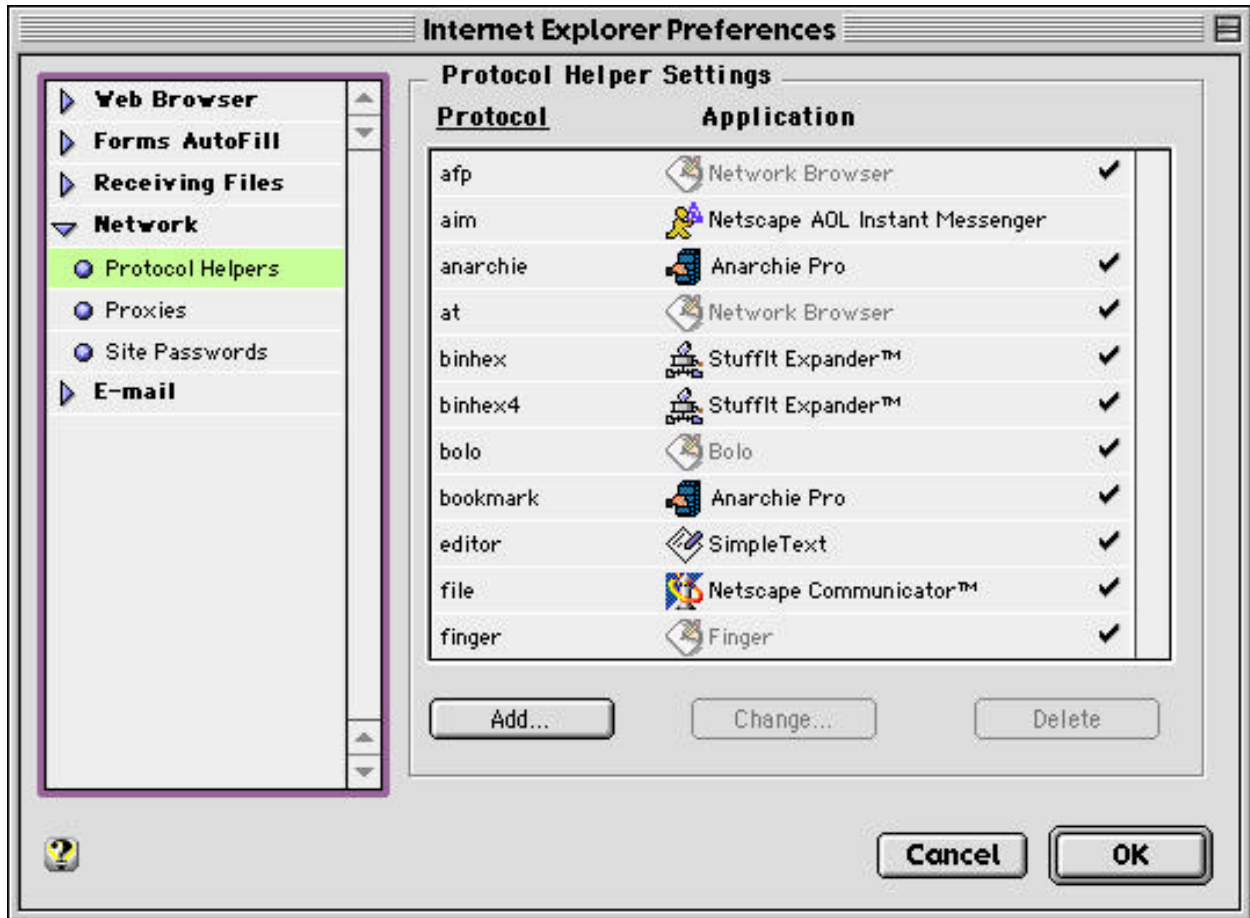
Netscape:
        Netscape users can register the browser with the accompanying AppleScript. When the script is run, you may be prompted to locate the Netscape browser. Should you continue having troubles registering Netscape, you can try writing your own small AppleScript to do the function. To do so, start the AppleScript Script Editor application (in the Apple Extras folder on your hard drive) and enter the following script and run it:

```
tell application "Netscape"
    register protocol "YoMa" for protocol "cd"
end tell
```

Once Netscape has been registered to handle the CD protocol, proceed to step 2.

Internet Explorer:
        Due to a bug in certain Internet Explorer releases, registration via AppleScript does not always get saved with the browser. Thus, it is recommended that you register Internet Explorer manually rather than with a script. To do so, open the Preference Window (located beneath the "Edit" menu) and select "Protocol Helpers" from the "Network" submenu on the left.

Click the "Add" button and enter "cd" (with NO quotes) in the "Helper For:" field. Push the "Choose Helper..." button and select the SurfTunes application. Click "OK". Internet Explorer should now be ready for CD protocol information.

2. Start the SurfTunes application and let it run in the background. It is relatively non-demanding and can be run with as little as 1MB of free RAM (in addition to your browser, naturally). Select "Preferences" from the Edit menu and select the appropriate browser.

3. Start your browser and begin entering commands to the CD player. See below for detailed instructions.

SurferTunes Commands

SurfTunes responds to a variety of CD commands from your browser. It will also construct a CD web interface on-the-fly for the currently inserted CD. Your web interface will have the name of the CD and the name of all the tracks on that CD (as they are displayed/edited in the Apple CD player (©Apple Computer) or CD MacEdit (©Purple E Software)). See the 'interface' command below for more details.

To command SurfTunes, you can enter a number of commands directly in your browser. Just as your browser knows how to handle, http:// and ftp:// requests, SurfTunes will handle cd:// requests. All commands must be preceded by "cd://" (NO quotes) followed by an appropriate SurferTunes command. For example, to play a track from the browser, enter the following command into your "Location" (Netscape) or "Address" (Internet Explorer) field:

cd://pl1

The command instructs your browser to "tell" SurfTunes the 'pl1' command. The command, as you might have guessed, is the first two letters in the word "play" followed by the number of the track you wish to play. If everything has gone right now, you should be listening to Track 1 on your CD player now. The remainder of the commands follow a similar scheme. The first two letters of the command word followed by a number if necessary. See the chart below for a detailed list of commands. SurfTunes supports: Play, Stop, Pause, Continue, Forward, Reverse, Eject, and Volume.

Command	Description
cd://interface	Builds a web interface on the fly and loads it into your browser. The interface includes the CD title, the titles of all tracks, a volume control, and CD player controls. You can insert a new CD and issue the cd://interface command to refresh the interface, CD title, and track information.
cd://pl#	Plays a desired track number. If the number is omitted, the CD will play from track 1.e.g. cd://pl5 will play track 5.
cd://st	Stops the CD player and resets to Track 1. e.g. cd://st
cd://pa	Pauses the CD player
cd://co	Continues playing the CD if it has been paused.
cd://fo	Advances the CD Player to the next track.
cd://re	Advances the CD Player to the previous track.
cd://ej	Ejects the current CD.
cd://vo#	Sets the volume of the CD player. Requires a number between 0 and 255. e.g. cd://vo255 sets the volume to the loudest setting.

For users that are knowledgeable about HTML, these commands can be embedded in HTML documents to build your own Web-based CD interface. This might also be useful for multimedia authors who wish to play CD audio directly from browser-Kiosks.

For example:
Track 5
will display a link for playing Track 5.

TROUBLESHOOTING

• SurfTunes may not always function as expected if more than one CD player is connected to your Mac. It prefers internal Apple CD players, which come stock on all new machines and most machines from the past 10 years. If you have a CD burner connected externally, we have sometimes found it necessary to power it down while using SurfTunes.

• If your browser interface has not refreshed correctly after inserting a new CD, be sure to send SurfTunes another "cd://interface" command. If it still does not refresh, open the Preferences of your browser and clear out the Cache.

REGISTRATION

You can register SurfTunes by sending your name, email or postal address, and $20 (US Dollars) to:

Erick Tejkowski
2661 N. Illinois
PMB #170
Swansea, Illinois 62226
USA

Registered users can take full advantage of all SurfTunes commands. Unregistered users are able to start the CD player from Track 1, adjust the volume to full on or full off only, and can use a limited-ability interface.

Caveats

Purple E Software makes no promises as to the functionality of SurfTunes. It should not harm your computer in any way, but we cannot be responsible for any behavior incurred therein.

Version Information

Version 1.0 - Initial Release
(10/31/99)