



U S E R M A N U A L

Y2K App Checker Pro by Blue Line Studios

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Alpha-Tester:

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INTRODUCTION

Macintosh computers and the Millennium

The Mac operating system (Mac OS) and hardware is, according to Apple, fully year 2000-compliant, but that doesn't mean your software is, especially databases, macros, and spreadsheets.

All Macs can deal with dates from January 1, 1904, through February 6, 2040, so there is no fundamental incompatibility to be expected.

Mac OS 6.x through 9 can handle dates from 30,081 B.C to A.D. 29,940. As for the year 2040 expiry date, there is quite an interesting explanation for it: The original Mac developers team chose midnight, January 1st, 1904, as the start of the built-in calendar, because it was convenient to start on a leap year, which 1900 was not. The calendar was built to cover 136 years.

Some applications now may misinterpret dates, especially the ones that use their own routines instead of using the Mac OS built-in calendar function. Assume you enter a date in the format "1/31/00", the spreadsheet might understand it to be "January 31st, 1900". However, if you entered "1/31/2000", and the problem persists, then the program (or macro) has indeed a y2K problem.

You can find a general checklist for addressing y2K issues on Macs, including hardware, operating system, customized and off-the-shelf applications, and data, online at the University of California, Berkeley:

<http://y2k.berkeley.edu/computers/fixpcs/checklists/mac/macos/>

Developers can add to the database maintained by Macnologist at:

<http://www.macnologist.com/y2k/>

Additions or corrections to the database file please forward to Rich Barron by e-mail <Y2KApp@macnologist.com>.

Y2K APP CHECKER PRO—THE OVERVIEW

What the software does

Y2K App Checker Pro does a check on your installed software in accordance to the database from Macnologist.com, the most complete recourse regarding y2K issues currently available.

The program checks your installed software according to an underlying database. If it finds any programs on any mounted volume that have a known year 2000 incompatibility, it lists the program's name, its specific problem, and the recommended solution.

Y2K App Checker can help you scan for certain commercial off-the-shelf application programs for the Macintosh that are known to have y2K issues.

What it not does

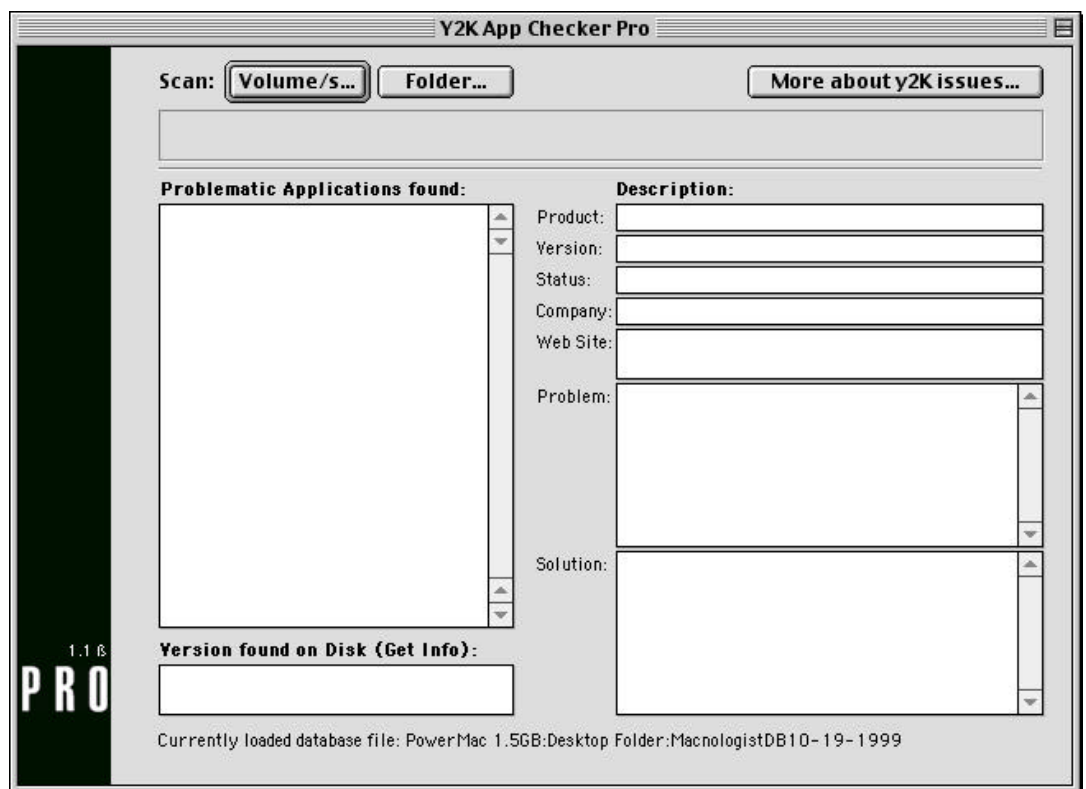
Y2K App Checker Pro cannot detect possible y2K problems within your data files (such as spreadsheets and databases) and in custom programs, scripts, and macros. The latter can be especially prone to year 2000 problems.

The program cannot compare the version of the application found on disk with the version found in the database file. There are technical reasons for this fact: Most companies do never change the Creator codes, the unique codes that are used by the Macintosh operating system, with subsequent updates of their applications, which is only sensible. In addition to that, the info texts written in the Finder's *Get Info* box is very inconsistent, so it is not possible for Y2K App Checker Pro to just compare these texts with the texts found in the database. You will have to do that manually.

THE ADVANTAGES OF Y2K APP CHECKER PRO

Y2K App Checker Pro's main features include

- The ability to load the most recent database file from Macnologist.com, the currently most complete resource available regarding applications with y2K issues
- The downloading of the latest database file from the World Wide Web
- The ability to batch scan all currently mounted volumes, including volumes shared via network
- The batch scanning of mounted volumes
- The scanning of single folders
- The ability to display the version information found in the Finder's *Get Info* box



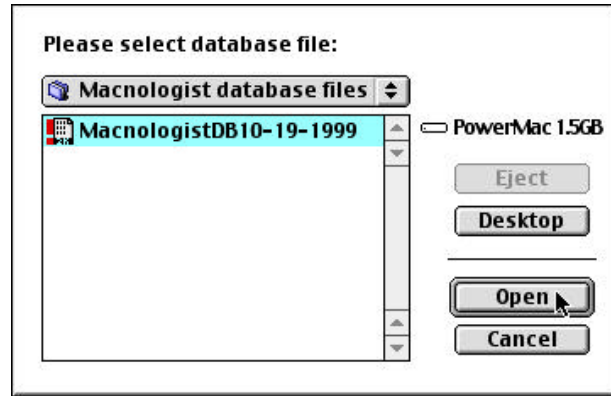
Why paying for it

At this point we would like to **thank you very much** for supporting shareware! Hundreds and hundreds of hours went into the development of the database maintained by Macnologist.com and the programming of the software described here. By having payed the registration fee you have greatly helped encourage us to create software in the future.

USING Y2K APP CHECKER PRO

Launching the program and loading the database file

Everytime you launch Y2K App Checker Pro you will be prompted to select Macnologist's database file.



Navigate to the file and click *Open* to load it. In case you do not have the file, you need to download it first from the World Wide Web.

<http://www.macnologist.com/y2k/db/DB.sit.hqx>

In that case click *Cancel*. If you have Internet access, you can conveniently download the file by choosing menu *File: Download Database from Web*, which will open your favourite web browser. The very first time you use this feature, you will be prompted to show Y2K App Checker Pro wher your browser is. The next time, Y2K App Checker Pro will remember the location of it. If you change your browser's location, however, you will be asked again. Holding down the *Option* key while clicking any active Hyperlink will make Y2K App Checker Pro forget where your browser is.

Once you have downloaded the latest file from Macnologist, you can load the file by choosing menu *File: Load Database File*.

Some older browser versions do not decode and expand the file automatically. If this is the case, you will notice that the file's name is either *DB.sit* or *DB.sit.hqx*. If so, you will need to decode and expand the files using *Stuffit Expander*. If the latter software is on your hard disk, doubleclicking the database file will automatically do the magic. The expanded database file can also be doubleclicked in the Finder.

After loading the database file, Y2K App Checker Pro will run a check to verify its integrity. In case the checking should fail, please contact Rich Barron at [<Y2KApp@macnologist.com>](mailto:Y2KApp@macnologist.com). After successfully loading the database, the help text at the bottom of the main panel will now display the directory path of the loaded file.

Why loading the database file for each session

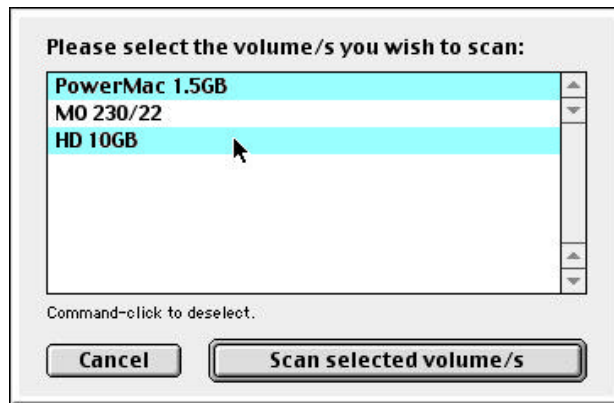
The main reason for this approach of loading the database each time is to make sure the very latest database from Macnologist.com, the most complete resource available regarding applications with y2K issues, will be used for doing the y2K check.

Scanning volumes for problematic applications

After the database has been loaded, the menu *Scan* as well as the buttons *Volume/s...* and *Folder...* on the main panel will not be dimmed anymore.

If you want to perform a check on one single or several volumes, select *Volume/s...* from either the menu or by pressing the button.

You will then be prompted to select the volume or volumes you wish to scan. If you have accidentally selected a volume, you can de-select it by holding down the *Command (Apple)* key while clicking the selected line again. Click *Scan Selected Volume/s* to start the scanning procedure.



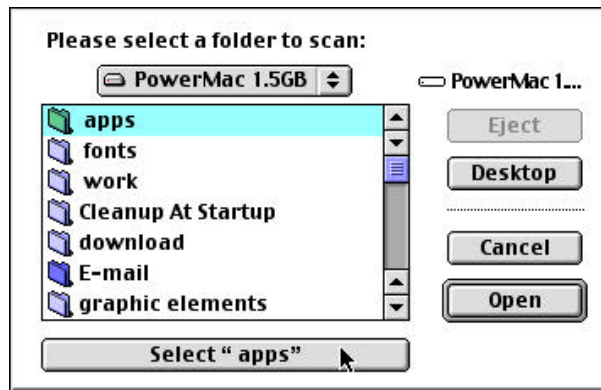
The process can take quite a while, as Y2K App Checker Pro will internally create a database of all the files found on the volume/s, then searching for files that are of type application. Next it will compare the loaded database of not-so-compliant applications with the internally created list. Whenever it finds a program which is listed in the database, it will put it into the field titled *Problematic Applications found*.

To interrupt the process, press the button *Stop*. Note that it might take a few seconds until there is a response.

Scanning a single folder

As opposed to scanning an entire volume, or batch scanning entire volumes, you can also just scan a single folder by choosing *Scan: Folder...* or pressing the button *Folder...* on the main panel.

Say, you use to keep storing all your application folders in a single folder, this feature comes in handy, saving you a lot of time.



Y2K App Checker Pro will recursively descend into all nested folders within the selected folder and find their contents as well.

The path to the selected folder will be displayed in the field below the buttons.

Important notice about the database

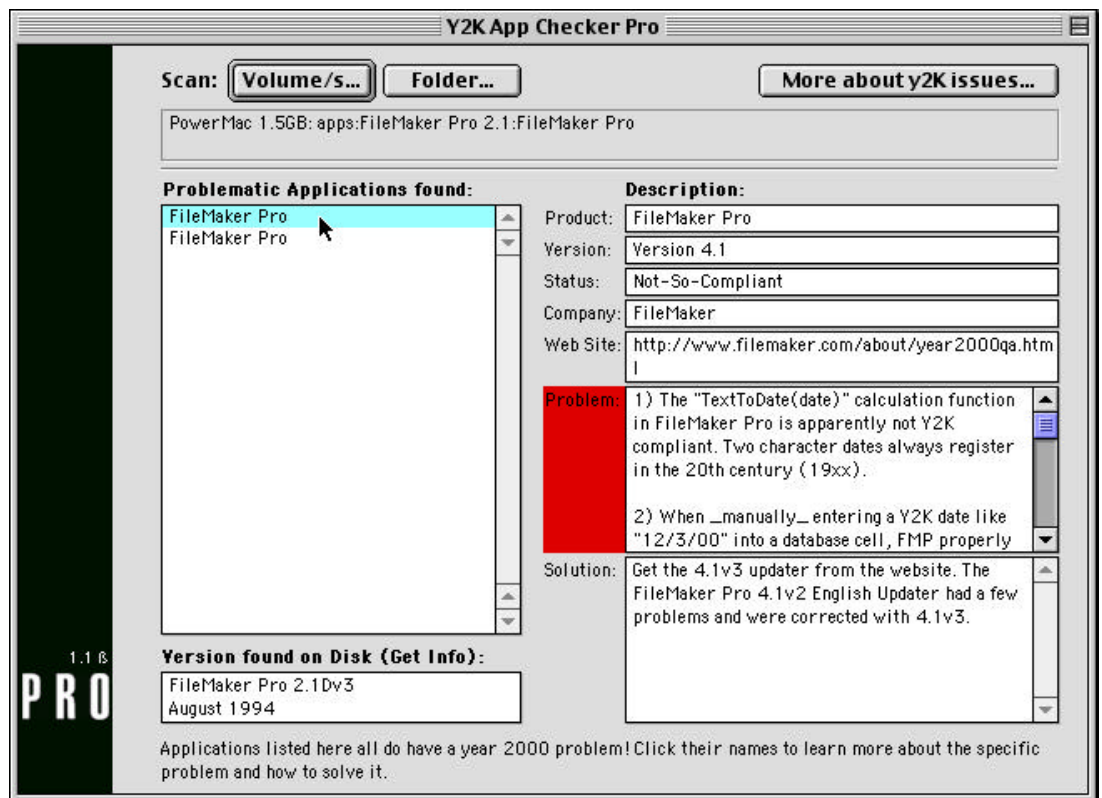
Please note that Blue Line Studios is unable to assist you with any problems arising from the use of the database, since this is a third party product. Also, Blue Line Studios cannot take on responsibility of the correctness or accuracy of the database.

The results of the scanning procedure

But Y2K App Checker Pro finds at least one application with a year 2000 issue on your computer?

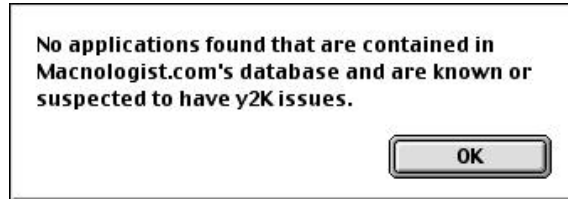
By clicking the name of the found application, all the information about it found in the database will be displayed in the fields, along with the version information found in the Finder's *Get Info* box. **Important:** Should the version info at the right not correspond with the version found on the disk, the problem may not apply to you.

If the version information fields show the same version number, then you have just found an application that has most likely a year 2000 issue.



Important: Please note that Blue Line Studios is unable to answer any questions you might have with regard to the listed applications, or provide solutions for workarounds or fixes, since these are all third party products. Also, Blue Line Studios cannot take on responsibility of the correctness or accuracy of the results, since these are entirely based on Macnologist's database, which is also a third party product.

If Y2K App Checker did not find any applications, it will display the following alert:



Important: This does not necessarily mean that your applications are free from y2K problems! It merely means that Y2K App Checker did not find any applications on your scanned volume/s that are listed in Macnologist's database.

Redo the scanning using an update of Macnologist's database as soon as it becomes available.

What to do next

If Y2K App Checker Pro displays a list of applications in the field *Problematic Applications found*, you should click each line and carefully check the version fields to see if your version of the application corresponds to the version found in the database. If this is the case, make sure you read the fields *Problem* and *Solution*. For most of the products, a fix is available in form of a download file from the company's web site. Very often, the update is even free-of-charge.

If you have an Internet connection, you can launch your web browser and go right away to the recommended web site by clicking the field *Web Site*. In case the hyperlink should be outdated, please report it to Rich Barron, Macnologist.com at Y2KApp@macnologist.com. Please do **not** report it to Blue Line Studios, as we are not maintaining or supporting the database on which the linking information is based upon.

Macnologist.com does the utmost to keep keep the hyperlinks up-to-date, but since these URLs are subject to changes, this is not an easy task. Your assistance is highly appreciated.

TROUBLESHOOTING

What if the program doesn't work as expected

Y2K App Checker Pro has been tested exhaustively and thoroughly. In case you experience a problem of any sort, please make sure you follow the guidelines below.

1. Please check this list:

- If the database check failed, please contact [<Y2KApp@macnologist.com>](mailto:Y2KApp@macnologist.com).

The database is a third-party product maintained by Macnologist.com.

- If it is a problem with the program itself: Did the crash, freeze, or unexpected behaviour only happen once or does it happen everytime?

If it happens everytime, please write down the exact steps that lead to the error.

- Did you restart your computer and try again?

Sometimes a restart performs wonders.

- Did you recently install any new extensions used by the operating system?

Sometimes extensions can cause problems. Please remove the extension and try again.

- Did you recently install a new version of the operating system?

Self-explanatory...

- Did you trash Y2K App Checker Pro and use a fresh backup copy?

The program can get corrupted, due to system crashes during operation, although it happens very rarely. You should always keep a backup copy of it in reach. If you download it again from Blue Line Studios' web site, your registration information will still be valid.

2. If the problem persists, please take a look at our online support page at <http://www.blueline-studios.com/ykSupport.html>

3. If you still can't find the solution of the specific problem, you may contact Blue Line Studios' support department at [<support@blueline-studios.com>](mailto:support@blueline-studios.com). We will need an exact reproducible description of how the error occurred. Only then will we be able to track down and fix any possible flaws or bugs.

Important note

Blue Line Studios is unfortunately unable to guarantee the error-free operation of the application in conjunction with the externally loaded database, since the latter is a third-party product. Also, we cannot take on responsibility of the correctness or accuracy of the information contained in the database. Please mail any information concerning the information in the database to [<Y2KApp@macnologist.com>](mailto:Y2KApp@macnologist.com).