MacWasher Help File
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Overview of MacWasher
MacWasher is a very useful program for cleaning up the history of your activities on a Macintosh computer. Many people do not realize that MacOS and other software programs store information about what they have done, what applications they have launched, what documents they have used, what web sites they have visited, and various other activities they have performed. Therefore, anyone else can see what you have been doing on your Mac, which raises privacy concerns. Furthermore, much of your activity information takes up valuable disk space, and recovering this space can be very beneficial to Mac system performance.

Cleaning up the history of your activities can be a tedious chore of manually removing each history file or entry. If privacy and disk space are to be maintained, this process must be performed every time you use your Mac. MacWasher can automate this process for you! MacWasher's AutoWash will automatically run in the background and clean up whatever tracks you want removed, whenever you want. You can have MacWasher's AutoWash

automatically clean your files when your Mac is Started or Shutdown, as well as scheduled "background" cleanings while you use your Mac. MacWasher integrates with the standard MacOS places where your tracks are kept, such as the Recent Applications Folder, Recent Documents Folder, Temporary Files Folder, and the Trash Folder. It also integrates with popular programs like Netscape and Internet Explorer. What's more, with the flexible "Custom Wash Items" feature, you can specify other files and folders that you would like to have automatically cleaned!

Quick Start
After installing MacWasher, there will be a MacWasher folder on your desktop.   Within the MacWasher folder you will find two applications: "MacWasher" and "MacWasher AutoWash".   You may move these files anywhere on your Mac, as long as they are kept in the same folder with each other.

If you wish to have the "MacWasher", but not "MacWasher AutoWash" icon on your desktop, make an alias of the "MacWasher" icon (select the "MacWasher" icon, then press Command-M), then drag the resulting "MacWasher alias" icon to the desktop.

Double-click the "MacWasher" (or "MacWasher alias")   icon to configure MacWasher's settings, test your settings with a "simulated" wash, perform an "actual" wash, and configure the powerful MacWasher AutoWash application.

Automatic Wash Options
The MacWasher AutoWash application can be set to run automatically. There are 3 modes of Automatic washing: on MacOS Startup, on MacOS Shutdown, and at scheduled time intervals.   Launch MacWasher to configure the AutoWash settings to run in any or all of these three modes.

Wash on MacOS Startup
Checking this box will cause MacWasher AutoWash to automatically clean up your selected items every time your Mac is Started.

Wash on MacOS Shutdown
Checking this box will cause MacWasher AutoWash to automatically clean up your selected items every time your Mac is Shutdown.

Scheduled Washing
After checking the "Automatic wash every"   box, the popup button menu to the right of the box will become active. Using the pull down menu, you can select the time interval in which you would like MacWasher to clean your items. Time intervals range from every minute to once a day. Once you have selected a time, MacWasher AutoWash (if running) will clean your items

automatically when the time is reached.

Bleaching Files
This option instructs MacWasher and AutoWash to "shred" the files it washes by overwriting the file a set number of times with random characters. This will render the files unrecoverable by utilities such as undelete and unerase. The default setting for bleach will overwrite a file 2 times, which is usually enough. The higher the number of overwrites the longer the wash cycle will take. Overwriting a file 3 times respects the DOD 5220.22-M directive for sanitizing a file on a Non-Removable Rigid Disk or a Removable Rigid Disk and overwriting a file 7 times respects the NSA approved seven-pass file erasure method. You can set the number of times to overwrite a file by clicking on the "info" button next to the "Add Bleach to Wash Items" checkbox.

Verifying and Changing Default Directories
Each time you launch MacWasher it attempts to detect all the standard wash item folder locations, such as the Netscape or Internet Explorer user profile and cache folders.   Clicking on the "Change Folders and Profiles" button will display a listing of all the detected paths to each standard wash item that is to be cleaned. Below is a list of the standard directories as detected on most (but not all) system configurations:

Recent Documents: <system volume>:System Folder:Apple Menu Items:Recent Documents
Recent Applications: <system volume>:System Folder:Apple Menu Items:Recent Applications
Temporary Files Folder: <system volume>:System Folder:Temporary Items
Trash Folder: <system volume>:Trash
Netscape User Profile: <system volume>:System Folder:Preferences:Netscape ƒ
or <system volume>:SystemFolder:Preferences:Netscape Users:<username>
Internet Explorer User Profile: <system volume>:System Folder:Preferences:Explorer
Internet Explorer Cache: <system volume>:System Folder:Preferences:MS Internet Cache

To change any of the above detected folders, simply click on the Change button located next to the folder and then browse to the new folder and click on OK.

When you are through verifying or changing your default directories, click on Done.

Standard Wash Items

These are items that are automatically integrated into MacWasher. These items include Recent Documents, Recent Applications, Temporary Files Folder, Trash Folder, Netscape, and Internet Explorer.

MacOS Recent Documents
This Standard Wash Item cleans the history of recent documents that you have opened. The document history is stored under the MacOS Apple Menu under the Recent Documents menu item.

MacOS Recent Applications
This Standard Wash Item cleans the history of recent applications that you have launched. The application history is stored under the MacOS Apple Menu under the Recent Applications menu item.

MacOS Temporary Files Folder
This Standard Wash Item cleans the temporary files folder.

MacsBug StdLog Files
This Standard Wash Item cleans any StdLog files that it finds on your desktop. Please note that this Standard Wash Item is not performed by AutoWash at MacOS Startup, in order to preserve needed StdLog files after a system crash.

MacOS Trash Folder
This Standard Wash Item empties the Trash can.

Netscape
If you have Netscape installed on your system, you can use this option to clean up Netscape cookies, cache, history, and trash mailbox. Clicking the "info" button next to the Netscape checkbox will bring up a sub menu allowing you to select which Netscape items you would like cleaned: cookies, cache, history, and/or trash mailbox. There is also an option to exclude cookies from being washed. This option is helpful if you visit sites that store useful cookies that you wish to keep. NOTE: You must close Netscape before MacWasher will be able to clean the Netscape History items.

Internet Explorer
If you have Internet Explorer installed on your system, you can use this option to clean up Internet Explorer cookies, cache, download folder, and history. Clicking the "info" button next to the Internet Explorer checkbox will bring up a sub menu allowing you to select which Internet Explorer items you would like cleaned: cookies, cache, download folder, and/or history.

AOL - America Online

If you have AOL installed on your system, you can use this option to clean up AOL cache, download folder, and history.

Custom Wash Items
Custom Wash Items give you the flexibility of adding files and folders to be automatically cleaned for you.   NOTE: MacWasher attempts to protect the integrity of your Mac by refusing to wash items in certain MacOS System folders.   However, it is your responsibility to verify that your Custom Wash Items do not include folders, subfolders, and files that you do not wish to permanently delete from your Mac.   This MacWasher feature is as powerful as MacOS Finder, thus you must take the same care to prevent the deletion of files that you do not wish to permanently delete from your Mac.

Adding or Editing Custom Wash Items
Click the "Add" button if you wish to add a new Custom Wash Item. If you wish to edit a Custom Wash Item, highlight the item on the Custom Wash Items menu and then click the "Edit" button.

RENAME - click the "Rename" button to change the name of the Custom Wash Item.

FOLDERS TAB - click this tab to select Folders to add to this Custom Wash Item.   Browse through your Mac by clicking on the Finder-like folder browser.   Select a folder to add to this Custom Wash Item.   If you want MacWasher to wash the selected folder's sub-folders (all of their subfolders, recursively), click the "Include All SubFolders" checkbox such that it is checked.   If you do not want MacWasher to wash the selected folder's sub-folders, make certain that the "Include All SubFolders" checkbox is not checked.   Click the "Add Selected Folder" button to add the selected folder to this Custom Wash Item.

FILES TAB - click this tab to select Files to add to this Custom Wash Item. Browse through your Mac by clicking on the Finder-like file browser. Select a file to add to this Custom Wash Item. Click the "Add Selected File" button to add the selected file to this Custom Wash Item.

REMOVE SELECTED - To remove folders or files from your cleaning list, select the folder and/or file in your "Files and Paths that will be washed" list and then click on the "Remove Selected" button.

DONE - click the "Done" button when finished.

Deleting Custom Wash Items
To delete a Custom Wash Item from your list, click on the item you wish to delete and then click the "Delete" button.

Washing and Simulated Washing
Click the "Wash Now" button located at the bottom-left of the main window in order to begin a Wash or a Simulated Wash.   A Simulated Wash goes through the process of washing your Mac without actually deleting anything.   Simulated Washes allow you to "test" your configuration before actually deleting any files.   Additionally, a Simulate Wash will let you know approximately how much disk space will be recovered after a wash.

You will see each and every file cleaned as MacWasher washes (or simulates washing) your selected items.

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