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## PowerPCCheck 3.0 documentation - August 1995

### • Shareware: \$5

- ◇ This utility is distributed as **shareware**: if you like it please honor the shareware system by sending **\$5** to the author at the address above. Since cashing international cheques is very expensive, please send **cash only** (U.S. dollars are best, but any other currency is fine).
- ◇ If you work on the Macintosh, there are many things you can send me **instead of the money**. Here are some suggestions: **original software** (but don't send any shareware/freeware unless you're the author), **books** or computer-related **magazines** (any free issue or subscription is welcome), **CD-ROMs**, any piece of new or used **hardware**, or anything else you've created.
- ◇ There's still another thing you could do: I'll finish my physics studies sometime in 1996 and I'm looking for a **one-year job** as a programmer (or maybe a scientist?) outside of Italy. Let me know if you have anything to offer.
- ◇ If you can't afford any of the above an **e-mail**, a **postcard** or a **letter** is welcome. I speak English, French and Italian. Please forgive me if I don't answer to all of your letters - I am often overloaded with my school work.

### • Introduction

- ◇ PowerPCCheck is a cool **drag & drop** utility that looks for **native PowerPC** code inside applications, control panels, extensions and all other executable files. It can check individual **files** as well as **folders** or entire **disks**; it inspects both the **data fork** and the **resource fork** of each file and creates a detailed **text report** of all the native code it finds. Version 3.0 can also **remove the PowerPC or 68K code** from the inspected files.

### • Removing code

- ◇ PowerPCCheck can **remove unused code** from the files it inspects. This operation is potentially **dangerous** because some programs may **stop working** or even **crash** if you remove some code that they expect to find in their own files.
- ◇ The **PowerPC** application code stored in the **data fork** can usually be removed without disturbing the 68K application; the stripped application should still run on both PowerPC and 68K Macs, although it will be a lot slower when running on a Power Mac. This is not guaranteed to work, but it's the safest removal you can choose.
- ◇ The **PowerPC** code stored in **resource forks** is a lot more dangerous to remove, since it's usually directly accessed by the related application. The stripped program will most likely run on a 68K Mac, but it may easily crash or stop working if you move it to a Power Mac.
- ◇ Removing the **68K** code from the **resource fork** of an application always prevents it from running on a 68K Macintosh. The application should still be able to run on a Power Mac, but you'll get an error message from the Finder if you try to launch it on a 68K machine. Note that this kind of removal can only be done on applications that carry native PowerPC code in their data forks.
- ◇ Before attempting to remove **any kind of code**, please make sure you have a **backup copy** of all your applications, plug-ins, extensions, control panels and shared libraries. Code removal can help if you have a 68K Mac and a small hard disk filled with megabytes of unused PowerPC code, but stripped-down programs can't be restored to their original state if you don't have a clean backup copy somewhere on your shelves.

## • Technical information

◇ There are two kinds of resources that contain native PowerPC code: **pure** code resources only contain what is called a **code fragment**, while **accelerated** and **fat** resources have a **routine descriptor** as well. This has nothing to do with performance and doesn't affect end users, but programmers may be interested in this topic; PowerPCheck marks with an **asterisk** all code resources that have a **routine descriptor**.

◇ PowerPCheck uses a simple method to **speed up** file scanning: the 'TYP#' 128 resource contains a list of **file types to skip**, and the 'TYP#' 129 resource contains a list of **resource types to skip**. You may add (or remove) file and resource types with ResEdit if you know what you're doing. Note that PowerPCheck also skips all files that have an empty resource fork.

## • Version history

◇ **3.0** - PowerPCheck can now **remove the PowerPC or 68K code** from the inspected files.

◇ **2.1** - This version is faster, requires less memory and can work in the background. Fixed various interface and file-saving issues.

◇ **2.0** - First **shareware** release; rewritten from scratch, now scans folders and disks and inspects resources.

◇ **1.2.1** - Cleaned up the code and updated documentation.

◇ **1.2** - Fat version! Runs **native** on Power Macs.

◇ **1.1** - Rebuilt with new versions of the compiler (never released).

◇ **1.0** - First public release.

## • Distribution

◇ PowerPCheck is ©1994-95 **Alessandro Levi Montalcini**. It can be freely distributed as long as it is not modified and there's no charge for it, but it may not be included in any commercial package without my consent.

◇ You may find the latest version of all my shareware programs by anonymous ftp to <ftp.alpcom.it>, inside the `/software/mac/LMontalcini` directory. The complete **ShareDisk** package, which contains all my stuff and can be registered at a very low price, is also available there.

◇ All **online services** and **bulletin boards** may make it available to their users at no charge other than the normal connection fees.

◇ All non-profit **user groups** may distribute it at no charge.

◇ All **magazines** may publish it on floppy disk without asking me first, as long as I get a copy of the issue containing my software.

◇ All **CD-ROM shareware collections** and **CD-ROM magazines** may include it without my prior consent, as long as I get either a copy of the CD-ROM or an offer to buy the CD-ROM at a discounted price.

◇ All **redistribution companies** such as Educorp may distribute it, as long as I get a copy of each media containing my software and a catalog of the company's offerings (where applicable).

## • Disclaimer

◇ PowerPCheck shouldn't cause any damage, but you're using it at your own risk. As an independent software developer, I can make **no warranties** whatsoever on it.

## • Have fun!

◇ And don't forget to **\$\$\$ send your contribution \$\$\$** so that more cool utilities will see the light in the near future, at the low-low-low costs of shareware.