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**\*\*\* FinderFileLoader \*\*\***  
- An Apple IIgs GS/OS Finder Multi-File Loader Init -  
for AppleWorks 5.1  
by Hugh Hood  
version 1.3 (2024)

based on the AppleWorks 3/UltraMacros 3 'FinderLaunch'  
by John L. Tegelaar & Ton W. van Santen  
The Netherlands (1991)

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## **Introduction**

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FinderFileLoader is an AppleWorks 'Init' that allows you to select and open any combination of up to 36 AppleWorks Word Processor (AWP/\$1B), AppleWorks Data Base (ADB/\$19), AppleWorks Spreadsheet (ASP/\$1A) or TEXT (TXT/\$04) files at one time from the GS/OS Finder and then automatically (i) launch the AppleWorks 5.1 application and (ii) add the selected files to the AppleWorks desktop for immediate use.

## **Using FinderFileLoader**

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Automated selecting and loading files into AppleWorks requires nothing special, as it follows standard GS/OS Finder procedures.

To open and load a single file, either double click on its icon, or select the icon and then choose File -> Open <cmd-O> from the Finder menu.

To open and load multiple files, first select the files by lasso, by Edit -> Select all <cmd-A> from the Finder menu, or by holding the <shift> key and clicking on multiple icons, and then either double clicking on one of selected icons, or by choosing File -> Open <cmd-O> from the Finder menu.

## **Explanation of Activities**

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After selecting and opening the files you want in the GS/OS Finder, the following activities are executed:

1. Prior to GS/OS beginning its shutdown and transferring control to ProDOS 8, the pathnames of the selected and opened files are put in the GS/OS Message Center;
2. The main AppleWorks 5.1 program file, APLWORKS.SYSTEM, is launched, based on the instruction embedded in the AWP, ADB, ASP and (optionally) TXT file icons;
3. APLWORKS.SYSTEM is recognized as a ProDOS 8 SYS file, so ProDOS 8 is started up;
4. APLWORKS.SYSTEM is launched and the FinderFileLoader 'Init' is executed, loading a compiled set of macro instructions to the Ultra 4 macro table;

5. Ultra 4 takes control and executes the macros just loaded to the macro table;
  6. The macros, which include machine language routines to access the GS/OS Message Center, then retrieve the selected filenames and load them to the AppleWorks Desktop;
- and,
7. The default set of macros is loaded, and control is returned to the user within AppleWorks.

## History

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On the December 1990 issue of diskzine NAUG-ON-DISK John L. Tegelaar of The Netherlands released a collection of impressive macros for use with AppleWorks 3 and version 3 of the UltraMacros add-on by Randy Brandt from Beagle Bros. He called his collection 'AppleWorks Power Macros', and classified it as shareware.

Then on the October 1991 issue of the same diskzine, he subsequently released a follow-up collection he called 'AppleWorks Power Macros E2.'

In the latter collection was a particularly interesting and complicated UltraMacros task file called 'FinderLaunch' which contained a hybrid combination of compiled macro instructions along with an engrafted set of GS/OS 'MessageCenter' machine language routines for use by those macros. {A limited version of this same task file had appeared earlier that year on the diskzine TimeOut Central issue 5}.

'FinderLaunch' allowed Apple IIgs users using AppleWorks 3 and UltraMacros 3 to select and open any combination of up to twelve (12) AppleWorks Database, Spreadsheet and Word Processor files from the GS/OS Finder and in turn automatically launch the AppleWorks 3 application and load those selected files to the AppleWorks desktop. To enable this capability, icons representing the three AppleWorks file types (i.e. - DataBase, Spreadsheet and Word Processor) had their attributes edited with an icon editor to specify the pathname of the special UltraMacros 3 task file 'FinderLaunch' as the application to be launched whenever one or more of those type files were opened in the GS/OS Finder.

While others, including both Douglas Gum and Tom Hoover, have written launchers that enable one to open a single AppleWorks file from the GS/OS Finder and in turn launch AppleWorks and load the file to the AppleWorks desktop, they did not use the GS/OS 'MessageCenter', but rather they passed the pathname of the chosen file to a custom UltraMacros taskfile using the ProDOS 8 startup protocol. By using the MessageCenter, Tegelaar was able to load multiple files to the AppleWorks desktop from the GS/OS Finder.

Unfortunately, it appears that Tegelaar moved on from the Apple II platform shortly after releasing his PowerMacros collection and it was rendered incompatible, first with Ultra 4 (the 1992 successor to UltraMacros 3) and then with AppleWorks 4.x and AppleWorks 5.x, both of which had implemented Ultra 4.

While access to the source code for the UltraMacros 3 macro instructions was available to those who paid John's \$15 shareware fee, the source code for the GS/OS MessageCenter machine language routines was never made available. {Tegelaar credited fellow Netherlander Ton W. von Santen with crafting those machine language routines}.

I discovered the FinderLaunch utility about 20 years after John had released it, and while I still daily used AppleWorks 5.1 on my Apple IIgs I had ceased using AppleWorks 3 and UltraMacros 3 many years prior.

But, given the interesting nature of the utility, I decided to re-install AppleWorks 3 and UltraMacros 3 and try it out, and I must say it was very impressive in its operation, so much so that I decided it was worth the time and effort to both update and enhance it for use with AppleWorks 5.x and its built-in Ultra 4.

I did not find this to be a quick and easy task, however. Ultra 4 obsoleted some of the UltraMacros 3 commands used by FinderLaunch, and the engrafted GS/OS MessageCenter machine language routines not only had to be disassembled and understood, but since John was loading them to an area of memory that was no longer available for use within AppleWorks 5.x, they had to be split into 3 separate parts and loaded into some limited space available on Page 2 (i.e. - \$200+) of main memory.

Moreover, Ultra 4 added many new commands, capabilities and potential enhancements that were not available to John when he wrote FinderLaunch, and AppleWorks 5 contained three (3) desktops of twelve (12) files each, enabling the loading of up to 36 files at one time. Also new to AppleWorks 5.x was the direct loading of text files (TXT/\$04) so the types of files able to be loaded was increased as well.

Yet another AppleWorks feature that was not available to John was the concept of AppleWorks 'Inits', which are machine language programs that run when AppleWorks is launched and loaded, but before final control is passed to the user. Wrapping within an Init a compiled Ultra 4 task file and moving it into the Ultra 4 macro table in order to be executed when AppleWorks is launched (i) allows elimination of a separate Ultra 4 task file and (ii) permits the GS/OS Finder icons for AppleWorks files to point to the name of the standard AppleWorks startup system file, which is 'APLWORKS.SYSTEM', rather than having to point to the pathname of a special Ultra 4 task file.

As a result, here in 2024, some 33 years after John released his FinderLaunch UltraMacros 3 task file I present a new AppleWorks Init called 'FinderFileLoader'. I hope you find it useful.

## **Installation**

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1. First ensure that both the InitManager and UltraMacros are activated in your AppleWorks 5.1 application. You will find the settings for both as follows: from the Main Menu choose -> 5. Other Activities -> 5. Select standard settings for AppleWorks -> 5. InitManager options and, -> 6. UltraMacros options.

2. Then copy the 'FinderFileLoader' Init (I.FINDERFILELDR) file to your 'AW.INITS' subdirectory within your main AppleWorks 5.1 directory.

3. Next, copy the appropriate AW.ICONS file and (optionally) the appropriate TXT.ICONS file to the ICONS directory on your system boot disk.

These icon files contain custom Finder Desktop icons that are displayed in Finder windows for the AppleWorks ADB, AWP and ASP file types. If you also choose to allow AppleWorks to load TXT files to its Desktop and copy the TXT.ICONS file to the ICONS directory, text files will also display a custom Finder Desktop icon.

{The AW.ICONs file also contains custom icons for (i) the AppleWorks program itself, (ii) TimeOut applications, (iii) AppleWorks Init files and (iv) DOT command macro Init files. These icons were sourced from Office Productivity Software Doug Gum's Ampermacros package for Ultra 4}.

Note that in order for the FinderFileLoader Init to be functional, the pathname of the file 'APLWORKS.SYSTEM' must be embedded into the ADB, AWP, ASP and (optionally) TXT icon files.

Since the symbol '\*' can be used as an alias to the system boot disk, which in most cases will contain your AppleWorks program, usually the pathname embedded into the icons will be one of the following:

- (I) \*/APPLEWORKS/APLWORKS.SYSTEM; or,
- (II) \*/APPLEWORKS5/APLWORKS.SYSTEM; or,
- (III) \*/APPLEWORKS.5/APLWORKS.SYSTEM; or,
- (IV) \*/AW5/APLWORKS.SYSTEM

Along with the 'FinderFileLoader' init file (I.FINDERFILELDR) are also four (4) separate directories (ICONS.I / ICONS.II / ICONS.III / ICONS.IV) containing icon sets with the APLWORKS.SYSTEM pathname already embedded for the four (4) possibilities listed above. Just choose the icon file(s) from the directory that corresponds to your setup, and copy just that icon file(s) to your ICONS directory.

{In the unlikely event your AppleWorks directory is not one of the four shown above, or perhaps if your AppleWorks directory is not on your system boot drive, you will need to use a suitable icon editor (there are several available) to modify the pathname embedded in the icon file to whatever you are using}.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** The GS/OS Finder reads all icon files in the ICONS subdirectory in order of their appearance within the directory, but with the file FINDER.ICONs always the last one read.

And the GS/OS Finder will use the very FIRST match on a filetype (or filename) to choose which icon to show for a particular file, and will exclude any subsequent matches. As a result of this behavior, you must ensure that the AW.ICONs file and (optionally) the TXT.ICONs file are the first icon files in the ICONS directory that contain an embedded ASP, ADB, AWP (optionally TXT) file type specification.

The CAT.DOCTOR utility from the late Glen Bredon's ProSEL 8 package contains a SORT function that will allow you to move the AW.ICONs and TXT.ICONs files to the top of the ICONS directory, should you find it necessary to do so.

4. Finally, restart your system to have the new custom AppleWorks icons used in Finder windows. You will now probably notice a difference in the appearance of the icons representing AppleWorks data files (and optional text files) in GS/OS Finder windows.

Assuming you have installed everything correctly, you may now select and open one or more files from the GS/OS Finder and have them automatically loaded into AppleWorks 5.1 ready for your use. Enjoy.