



# OS X Basic Maintenance Guide



## Introduction

OS X in general is more stable than OS9 once set up and configured.

It does a number of checks to the disk and directories on start up and repairs some problems without even asking. Consequently we are less dependent on Norton Utilities to keep our Macs in good working order.

Mac OS X is actually a version of Unix with a Mac Graphical User Interface (GUI) to make it more friendly. You can even talk Unix direct if you are so inclined via an application called Terminal which you will find in the Utilities folder in your Applications folder.

Unix is designed to run Servers all day every day and has built into it a number of 'health checks' some of which it will run once a day, others once a week and others once a month but it does this around 3am which is fine for Servers which run 24/7. However because we don't leave our machines on 24/7 these 'health checks' (and auto repairs) never get run!

Help is on hand though with a number of freeware and shareware applications that will run these checks at a time of our choosing as well as a range of other useful things that are built into Mac OS X but aren't available to us via the GUI.

These applications include

### **Freeware**

**Onyx** - <http://www.osx.free.fr/onyx/>

**Maintain 1** - <http://homepage.mac.com/mar0588/maintain1/Menu16.html>

### **Shareware**

**Cocktail** - <http://www.macosxcocktail.com/>

# Cocktail

Our favourite is Cocktail which is now Shareware but there is an earlier version 2.2.1 which is Freeware.

All these Applications need to run by Administrators as they need an Admin password to make an changes.

When you run Cocktail you will be asked for your Admin password before you can get into the Application

Then you will get this main window from which you can have 6 options.

**Disks** - This is where you can turn on & off Disk Journalling. For Protocols Journalling should only be on for the Startup Disk. All Protocols drives should not have Journalling on.

**System** - This is the main business part of Cocktail. Prebinding (setting which application opens which files), Permissions (setting who can have access to which files), Scripts (the daily, weekly & monthly maintenance scripts),

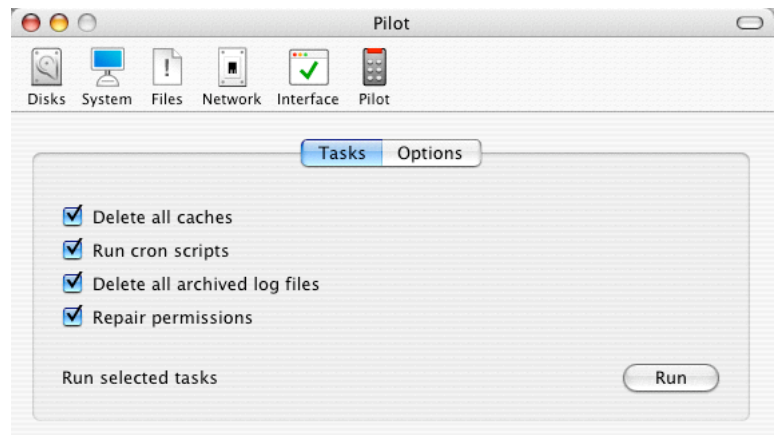
Cache (temporary stores that can get corrupted), Misc (force emptying Trash etc.)

**Files** - Not an area to be messed with unless you really know what you are doing.

**Network** - The only one in here that you should use is Card where you can set the speed of your Ethernet port on your computer.

**Interface** - Here you can set a range of things for the Finder & Dock Applications including putting the Dock into positions that the normal Preferences doesn't offer.

**Pilot** - This is the best bit as you can set Cocktail to run a host of the things from the various option windows and then shutdown or restart the computer. This is the thing to run if the computer is starting to misbehave.



# Carbon Copy Cloner

Unlike OS 9 you can't just copy a hard drive by dragging an icon to another drive. In OS X there are loads of invisible files and also as Permissions are now important drag copying messes those up.

Enter Carbon Copy Cloner (CCC) which enables drives to be copied effectively.

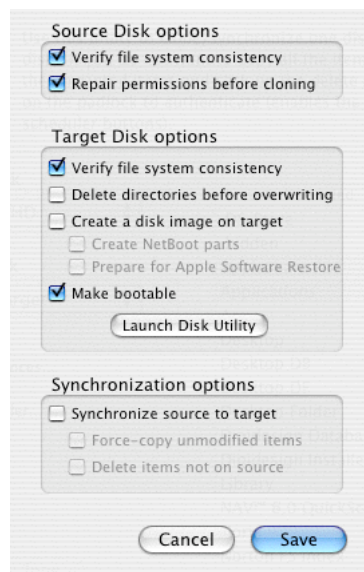
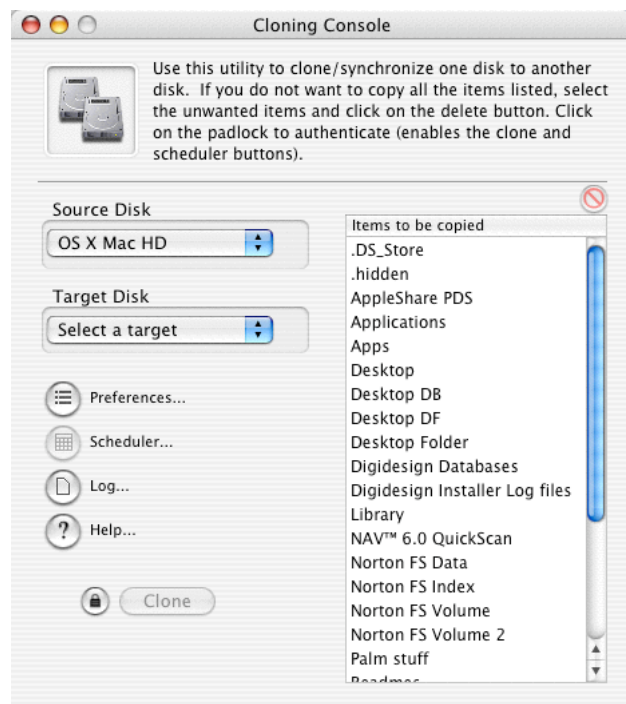
One tip is that the Target Disk should be a blank and freshly formatted drive if you want to be able to use & boot from it. Otherwise you can make a Disk Image if you want to make a backup of your drive.

We would recommend you make a safety copy of your StartUp Drive so you have something to boot from in an emergency.

Again as with Cocktail CCC needs your Admin password before it will function.

Click on the Padlock in the bottom left hand corner of the main window. You will be asked for your Admin password and then the Clone button will become active.

You can also set CCC to run at a specific time using the Schedule option.



# Useful OS shortcuts

## Startup key tips

### **Press X during Startup**

Force Mac OS X Startup

### **Press Option-Command-Shift-Delete during Startup**

Bypass primary Startup volume and seek a different Startup volume (such as a CD or external disk)

### **Press C during Startup**

Start up from a CD that has a system folder

### **Press N during Startup**

Attempt to start up from a compatible network server (NetBoot)

### **Press R during Startup**

Force PowerBook screen reset

### **Press T during Startup**

Start up in FireWire Target Disk mode

### **Press Shift during Startup**

start up in Safe Boot mode and temporarily disable login items and non-essential kernel extension files (Mac OS X 10.2 and later)

### **Press Command-V during Startup**

Start up in Verbose mode.

### **Press Command-S during Startup**

Start up in Single-User mode (command line)

### **Press Option during Startup**

Gives you the option to select which drive to boot from.

## Other useful commands

### Take a picture of the screen

#### **Command-Shift-4**

Take a picture of the selection

#### **Command-Shift-3**

Take a picture of the screen

#### **Command-Shift-4, then Spacebar**

Take a picture of the selected window

#### **Option-Command-esc**

Force Quit

#### **Control-Eject**

Restart, Sleep, Shutdown dialog box

