

-----Passport-----
A 4am hack 2016-09-02

Passport is a cracker's tool that can remove several forms of copy protection from Apple II 5.25-inch floppy disks.

Minimum system requirements:

- Apple //e, //c, IIgs, or][+ with 64K
- Two 5.25-inch disk drives(*)

(*) fully compatible with floppy drive emulators like CFFA3000 and FloppyEMU.

⇒ *Some fun facts about copy protection:*

1. *Many companies, especially smaller ones, outsourced their copy protection. I have seen byte-for byte identical copy protection on disks from 7 different companies!*
2. *Even companies that wrote their own copy protection would try to re-use it on multiple disks to get the most "bang for the buck."*
3. *Not everything has been cracked! Because there was so much piracy in the 1980s, some people assume that everything ever published has been cracked and ultimately preserved in an emulator-friendly format. In reality, there are hundreds of disks that have never been cracked. Thirty years later, these programs are still trapped on physical media, literally rotting away.*



Using Passport is simple. After running the program, put an original disk in slot 6, drive 1 and a blank formatted disk in any other drive. **[Ed. It is critical that you put a blank formatted disk in drive 2 before you start. Thus, you need to know beforehand if the disk you are trying to copy is in DOS or ProDOS disk format.]** If necessary, press "S" to cycle through your drives. Then press "C" to start the cracking.

If all goes well, Passport will read your original disk and write a copy in a standard format, then remove any protection checks from the copy. The copy will boot and run just as well as the original disk, but it will be copyable with COPYA or any full-disk copy program.

If all does not go well, Passport will tell you where it all went wrong. **[Ed. Actually, Passport will give you a list of things that may have gone wrong - you will need to figure out the exact cause of the problem.]**

In any case, Passport will NEVER write to or alter your original disk in any way. And neither should you! Don't reduce the number of original disks in the world; they aren't making any more of them.

Passport targets common protection schemes that were reused by multiple companies. These types of protection were common on educational software, not blockbuster arcade games.

Here is a sampling of companies whose disks Passport may be able to crack:
[Ed. List alphabetized by Company]

- ✓ Abracadata (e.g. Design Your Own Home series)
- ✓ Atari (e.g. Defender, Gremlins)
- ✓ Broderbund (very limited) (e.g. The Playroom, Where in Time Is Carmen Sandiego)
- ✓ Data East (limited) (e.g. Ikari Warriors, Batman)
- ✓ DesignWare (e.g. Spellicopter, Crypto Cube)
- ✓ Developmental Learning Materials (e.g. Curious George in Outer Space, Alien Addition)
- ✓ Edu-Ware (e.g. Decimals, Algebra 2)
- ✓ Ellen Nelson Learning Library (e.g. Science (series), House-a-fire!)
- ✓ Epyx (limited) (e.g. Summer Games, Deathsword)
- ✓ Focus Media (e.g. The Time Tunnel (series), Travels with Za-Zoom)
- ✓ Grolier Publishing (e.g. NoteCard Maker, EduCalc)
- ✓ Hartley Courseware (e.g. Chariots, Cougars, and Kings; Tim and the Cat and the Big Red Hat)
- ✓ Hayden (e.g. SAT Score Improvement System (series))
- ✓ Heartsoft (e.g. Electric Chalkboard, Tommy the Time-Telling Turtle)
- ✓ HRM Software (e.g. Gene Machine, Heredity Dog)
- ✓ Josten Learning Systems (e.g. Building Reading Skills, Explorations in Science)
- ✓ McCarthy-McCormack (e.g. Vowel Corral, Library Magic)
- ✓ MECC (e.g. Word Munchers, Clock WorksMedia Basics {e.g. Return to Reading series})
- ✓ Methods & Solutions (e.g. Fantasy Land, Behind The Wheel)
- ✓ Millennium Group (e.g. The Brain Game, Concentration)
- ✓ MindPlay (e.g. Fraction-oids, Dyno-Quest)
- ✓ Mindplay (e.g. Math Magic, Ace Detective)
- ✓ Mindscape (e.g. The Halley Project, Paperboy)
- ✓ Outdoor Safety)
- ✓ Pelican Software (e.g. Dino Days, Graphics Converter)
- ✓ Polarware (e.g. The Electric Crayon series, The Spy's Adventures series)
- ✓ Quest Learning Systems (e.g. Bingo Bugglebee Presents Home Alone)
- ✓ Queue (e.g. Force and Motion, Practical Grammar)
- ✓ Reader's Digest (e.g. Key Lingo, Cogito)
- ✓ Random House (e.g. Snoopy to the Rescue, Charlie Brown's ABCs)
- ✓ Scholastic (e.g. Math Shop, Microzine)
- ✓ Sierra On-Line (very limited) (e.g. BC's Quest for Tires, Sammy Lightfoot)
- ✓ Spinnaker Software (limited) (e.g. Snooper Troops (series), KidWriter)
- ✓ Springboard Software (limited) (e.g. Early Games for Young Children, Puzzle Master, Mask Parade)
- ✓ Sunburst Communications (e.g. M-ss-ng L-nks, The Incredible Laboratory)
- ✓ The Learning Company (e.g. Bumble Games, Gertrude's Secrets)
- ✓ Troll Associates (e.g. Dino Dig, Make A Face)
- ✓ Unicorn Software (e.g. Magical Myths, Ten Little Robots)



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Passport
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Version History:

2016-09-02

- add support for Protected.DOS (e.g. Moebius, Math Blaster)
- add support for "JMP \$B660" RWTS (e.g. Verb Viper, Master Match)
- add support for Datasoft encrypted bootloader (e.g. Tomahawk, Video Title Shop)
- fix bug in boot sector detection that erroneously claimed some disks were unreadable
- add informational messages about some RWTS variants (LSR \$6A, BCS \$08)
- refactor code in /id/ directory

2016-07-12

- initial release