

Welcome to Boot, You Bastard!™ v. 1.0fc1.

What Is It?

Boot, You Bastard!™ is a utility application written in AppleScript that is designed to quickly fix some problems that seem to be prevalent in OS8 and OS8.1 for the Macintosh. Specifically, it will help eliminate wacky behavior by the Finder and/or System files that appears to result from corruption on a fairly regular basis.

When Do I Need To Run Boot, You Bastard!™?

You may need to run Boot, You Bastard!™ when you encounter any of the following behaviors:

1. On booting up with non-Apple extensions loaded, the Finder begins cycling on and off before all of your drives are mounted on the desktop.
2. On shutdown or restart, the Finder begins cycling on and off and you may have to force a restart from the keyboard.
3. Finder operations become inexplicably slow.
4. Applications start to crash as they load, usually just as the menu bars are being drawn.
5. Other odd things happen and you suspect that your System or Finder files may be damaged (N.B.: Prior to OS8, it was easy to get a clue about this by looking at the modification dates of these files. With OS8, it's become apparent that modification dates do not reliably update and the OS8.1 Finder can be horribly mangled, yet still claim to be untouched since it's creation on Dec 16, 1997).

The strange part is that the machine will generally boot okay with extensions turned off or with only Apple extensions turned on. While this generally suggests problems with third-party extensions, replacing them doesn't help and it is the Finder and/or System files that actually have to be replaced to achieve a fix.

What Do I Need To Run Boot, You Bastard!™?

Boot, You Bastard!™ is intended to run under OS8 or later and requires that AppleScript be loaded. It is based 100% on the idea that you have a problem with your normal boot drive and have a mounted alternate disk of some kind that has good copies of the Finder and System files for *the same system version*. If you do not have a more or less virgin copy of your system software on an alternate disk, you will regret it whether you care to use Boot, You Bastard!™ or not, so bite the bullet and create one from the CD installer.

To run Boot, You Bastard!™, *start up from the troubled boot drive* with the "OS8[8.1] All" extensions set selected in the Extensions Manager Control Panel. Make sure that the drive with your alternate system software is mounted on the desktop, then double click the Boot, You Bastard!™ application icon.

You will be prompted to select the System Folder of the alternate drive that contains the fresh copies of the Finder and System files that you want to use to replace the busted ones. After you've told Boot, You Bastard!™ where to look for these, it will continue execution and will inform you when it's done (generally, 30-60 seconds later).

You then need to restart in order to load the new software and, ideally, see your Mac return to

good health. Once the reboot is completed, you will find the following in the Trash: Goodbye Trouble (folder) and the old System, Finder and Finder Preferences files. Empty the Trash and you are done.

Gotchas

Boot, You Bastard!™ does not look for or attempt to fix corrupted directories or drivers and does not do much more than automate a troubleshooting routine that I have found will frequently stabilize a Mac that is acting crazy. Run Norton Disk Doctor or Apple's Disk First Aid on your drives before running Boot, You Bastard!™ to confirm that the directories are valid.

If Boot, You Bastard!™ should crap out before it's finished running, things could be left in an odd state, but nothing has been deleted and your files have not disappeared! Your original (bad) Finder, System and Finder Preferences files are either still in the boot drive's System Folder or are in the Trash. All other files and folders that were in the boot drive's System Folder are either still there or are in a folder at the root level of that drive called "Goodbye Trouble."

Despite running Norton, DFA, and Boot, You Bastard!™, you may very well still have an unstable system. At some point, you will have to write it off and reinstall everything from scratch, but short of that, try disabling the ~ATM™ and/or MacOS EasyOpen control panels, both of which seem to have some fragility. Also try deleting the Apple Menu Options Prefs, General Controls Prefs, ASLM Preferences, and/or Sound Preferences files (Boot, You Bastard!™ has already taken care of the Finder Preferences file for you).

Finally, Boot, You Bastard!™ is not intended to help you kill idle time by running it repeatedly to see what happens. Testing suggests that running it for fun may actually wind up causing some of the same problems that Boot, You Bastard!™ is supposed to fix (and no, I don't know why that would be the case, just don't do it).

Other Stuff

The Boot, You Bastard!™ application is freeware and may be distributed and used by anyone for personal, non-commercial purposes so long as this Read Me First file is included with it. It may not be incorporated in or distributed with any commercial product without my written consent (*i.e.*, it is going to cost you).

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Contact Info

You may contact me with bug reports, comments, or questions directed to <<mailto://gordon@mindspring.com>>. In general, the most current version of Boot, You Bastard!™ is available for download via anonymous FTP from <ftp://ftp.mindspring.com/users/gordon/>.

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