



Think Getting Started



Introducing . . .

The Thought Behind Think

Look around your screen right now. It's okay, we'll wait.

At this very moment, applications are fighting for your attention. Between chat windows, Finder windows, Web browser windows, and everything else, it's amazing any of us can concentrate at all. As it has become easier to multitask, we've become more likely to have two dozen windows on the screen at any given moment. Innovations like Exposé makes *finding* what you want in the sea of visual stimuli easier, but they've done little to *remove* those distractions.

Focusing takes concentration, and concentration takes energy. You can only concentrate on so much at a time, and you can't create more energy. What we need to do is change how we work.

Let's limit our attention to one application—any application—at any time. Let's make it easy to change focus when we have to. Let's allow ourselves to bring other apps up quickly if we need them, but put them out of sight again just as quickly.

Let's rediscover how to focus, and get back to thinking.

On the following pages, we'll show you how to use Think and give you some tips to help you integrate Think into your workflow.

This manual was created with the help of Think. What has Think helped you accomplish? We want to hear about it! Drop us a line at think@freeverse.com and tell us.

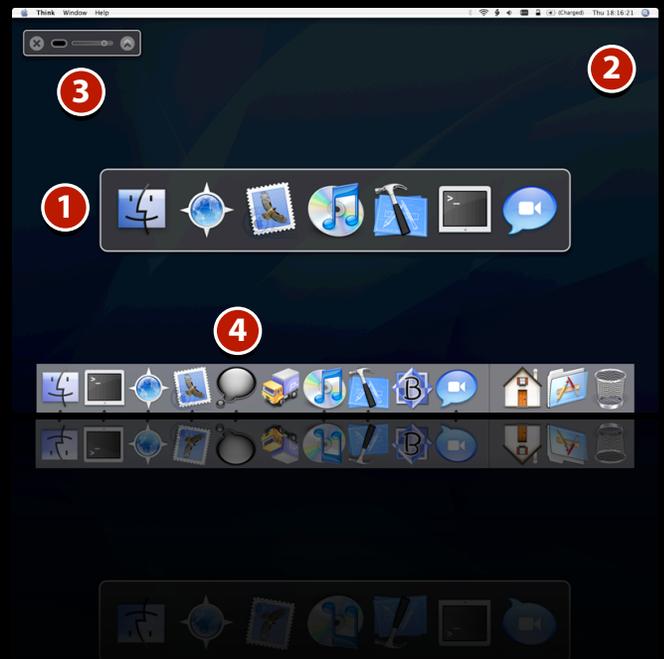


Taking Inventory

Becoming Familiar with the Interface

Think has only a handful visual components, but it's important to be familiar with them before digging further. Let's take a moment to discuss the various parts of Think.

- 1 Illumination Panel
- 2 Backdrop
- 3 Control Panel
- 4 Think (in Dock)



Illumination Panel

This might look a little familiar to you. When you launch Think, the illumination panel will appear, allowing you to choose an application on which to focus—as we say, “illuminating” it. If you quit the illuminated application, the panel will reappear, where you can choose another app or quit Think.

To illuminate a different application without quitting Think, click the raise button in the control panel, or on Think in the Dock.

Backdrop

This is what shields you from the distraction of the outside world. The Desktop and other applications are kept behind it to keep you focused on the illuminated app.

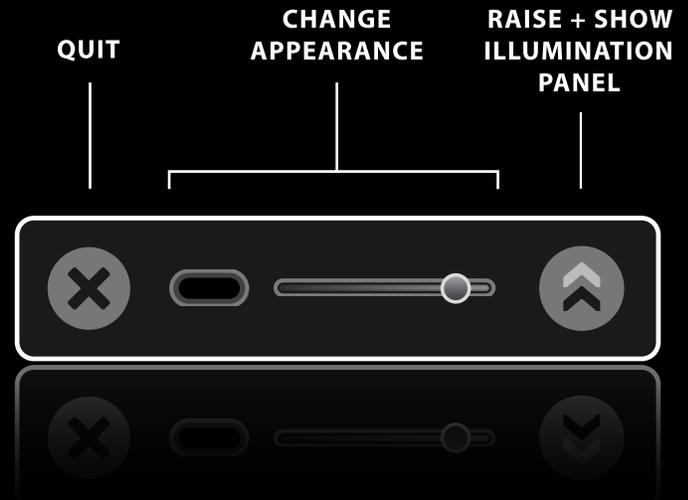
You can temporarily bring a “guest” application above the backdrop by clicking on another app in the Dock. Clicking into the backdrop will refocus you on the illuminated application, returning the guest to exile.



Control Panel

Think's control panel floats above other applications, and as such, is always available to you.

- The quit button will shut down Think and remove the backdrop.
- Use the colour well to change the backdrop to whatever colour makes your soul feel good.
- Don't want a completely solid backdrop? We've got that covered. Adjust the opacity slider to change the opacity of the backdrop. Slide it all the way to the right to make the backdrop completely opaque.
- When it's time to direct your focus elsewhere, click the raise button to bring Think to the front and show the illumination panel.



In the Dock

Think's Dock icon serves two purposes. First and foremost, it's a convenient way to raise Think and show the illumination panel. Clicking on Think in the Dock is the same as clicking the raise button in Think's control panel.

Secondly, Think's icon displays some useful information to you. Notice that when there's an application illuminated, its icon is displayed *inside* Think's icon.

Because clicking in the backdrop refocuses the illuminated application, it helps to know which app is currently illuminated. You can glance at the Dock if you ever need to know—Think will keep its Dock icon updated to help you remember!

Not that you'd ever forget, of course.



Core Concepts

Before we go to the next section, let's review Think's core concepts.

- To **illuminate** an application is to make that application the frontmost and sole focus of your world, blocking out the Desktop and other apps. The illuminated application floats above the backdrop at all times.
- To **raise** Think is to bring Think to the front, which is usually done to show the illumination panel.
- A **guest** application is one that is brought above the backdrop temporarily so you can work with it alongside the illuminated application.
- To **refocus** the illuminated application is to return all guests to the background, leaving only the illuminated app.



Workflow(ing)

You'll develop your own workflow with Think pretty quickly. To help you get there, here are some useful tips.

- Remember that you aren't limited to the illuminated application. You can click on another app in the Dock to make it a guest and interact with it alongside the illuminated app. Grab a text snippet from an e-mail, bring it into your text editor, then refocus and get right back to working! Hot keys make this even easier.
- You don't have to bring an entire application forward as a guest! By utilizing Exposé, you can bring a single window from another application forward temporarily, just like you would with a guest application.
- Adding Think to your Login Items doesn't mean you have to use it at login. If you switch out of Think when there's no application illuminated, the backdrop will disappear until you click Think in the Dock or click the raise button in Think's control panel.
- Spotlight and QuickSilver make great additions to Think, from launching Think itself to launching new guest applications. Fire up a new application with Spotlight, then immediately illuminate it with a quick keystroke!
- Don't forget about the standard command-tab application switcher. Command-tab to a new application, then press command-option-tab to illuminate it, discarding other distractions.

Hot Keys

We've got a few convenient hot key combinations that make using Think even easier. These are available whenever Think is running.

Command + Option + Return will raise Think and show the illumination panel.

Command + Control + Return will refocus on the illuminated application.

Command + Option + Tab will illuminate the frontmost application, useful for when you decide you want to focus on a guest instead.



Cheat Sheet

Think at a Glance

The quick reference below assumes you're familiar with some common terminology. See "Core Concepts" for anything that isn't clear.

For a list of hot keys, please see "Hot Keys".

- Click Think in the Dock to show the illumination panel. You can also use the raise button in Think's control panel.
- Click the quit button in the control panel to remove the backdrop completely. Think will quit immediately.
- Click on an application in the illumination panel to make that app frontmost and the focus of your attention.
- Use the colour well and opacity slider in the control panel to change the appearance of the backdrop.
- Click anywhere in the backdrop to refocus the illuminated application.
- If you illuminate an application and then show the illumination panel, you can click in the backdrop to return to the illuminated app instead of choosing a new one.



Think Getting Started

Think Is Free

You heard that right. Free. Enjoy it.

We make software because that's what we love doing. (Okay, so it pays the bills. It's a perk.) If you dig Think as much as we do, check out our Web site. It's not the only awesome thing we're up to lately. Award-winning games, applications, and even the random monkey or two.

We'd certainly appreciate it!

Thanks,
The Gang at Freeverse

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