

# Pfinder: A Panther-like Finder for Legacy Macs

Pfinder provides a "Panther" Finder environment for pre-Panther Macs running Mac OS 9 and higher; it's designed to run especially for Mac users whose Macs cannot be upgraded to Mac OS X due to hardware restrictions, but it's also available in a Carbon version for users who would like to check out a Panther-style user interface in earlier versions of OS X.

Pfinder features for all pre-Panther OS versions

- Favorites column
- Favorites groups
- Iconize to palette
- Go to parent folder
- Edit file creator and types

Features for Mac OS X (pre-Panther)

- Color Labels
- Calculate folder sizes
- Resizable columns in column view

Features for Mac OS 9

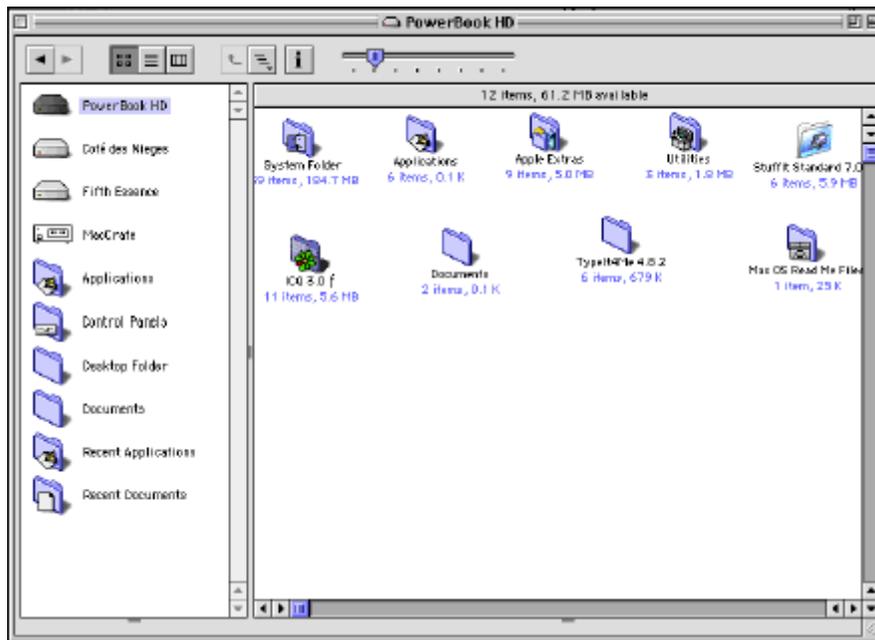
- Single window interface
- Window history (back and forward)
- Column View
- Icon Scaling
- Extra info under icon in icon view
- Background pictures and colors

New in version 1.0b4

- Snapping grid size preference
- Font size of icons preference
- Icon view no longer scrolls back to origin on activating the window.
- Draw background pictures in tables.
- Draw PNG files.

## Pfinder Features and Capabilities

### Favorites Column



When you first launch Pfinder you will get a set of standard folders showing in the favorites column on the left of the main Pfinder window. Also added to the top of this list are any mounted disks. Clicking on any of these icons will show that folder in the main area of the Pfinder window.

To add new icons to this list, drag an icon from the main area into this list and an alias of it will be added. You can also drag icons from the real Finder into this list. Indeed you can drag anything you like into this area, including applications, documents, and favorite folders.

You can reorder this list just by dragging an icon up or down to the correct position. To remove an icon just drag it out of the list and it will disappear (similar to the OS X Dock). Only the alias will be removed, not the original. Alternatively select the icon and select Clear from the Edit menu.

## Favorites Groups

Because you may have many more favorites than can be displayed in one column, or you may want to group your favorites into logical groups, you can create new groups of favorites. Select 'Show Favorites Groups Panel' from the View menu. A panel will slide open under the Favorites column. There is one default groups called 'Favorites' which can not be deleted. A new group can be added by selecting 'New Favorites Group' from the View menu. A new Folder will appear in the Favorites Groups Panel which can be renamed to something like 'Applications' or 'Work' or 'Projects'. When you click on this group folder it will show a new blank Favorites panel (apart from the Disks). You can then drag the appropriate icons into this area. Applications dragged in the Favorites column can be launched with just one click.

## Iconize to Palette

When you collapse or minimize the Pfinder window, you can choose in the Preferences dialog to leave it collapsed (i.e.: windowshaded) or collapse it to an icon in a floating palette so it can be accessed easily later. In Mac OS X you get an extra button in the top right corner of the main window which always collapses to the palette rather than minimizing to the Dock.

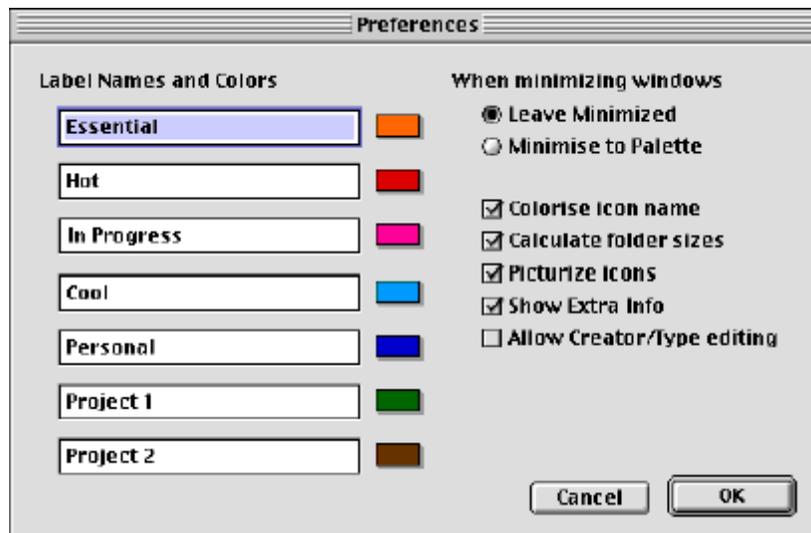


## Info Panel



To show the info panel, select 'Show Info Panel' from the View menu or click the 'i' button in the top tool bar. An Info panel will slide up showing all the standard file, folder or disk info. For programmers, you also see the file creator and type codes which can be edited if you turn on the preference in the Preferences dialog. Do not edit these types if you do not know what you are doing, as it may render the file unlaunchable or uneditable.

## Color Labels

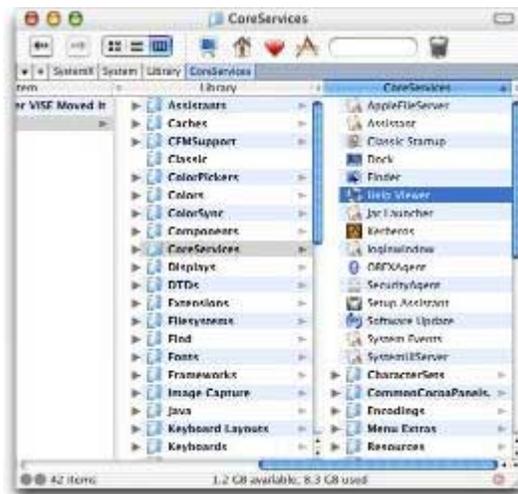


For Mac OS X users, Pfinder reintroduces the color labeling of MacOS 9. Your old Mac OS 9 label colors will be shown as they were in OS 9 and they can be changed from the Info panel. The label names and colors can be changed in the Preferences dialog.

## Calculate Folder Sizes

Pfinder will calculate folder sizes in the background like Mac OS 9 did. And it can display this size in blue under the folder icon along with the number of items in the folder like OS X. You can turn this off in the Preferences dialog.

## Resizable Columns in Column View

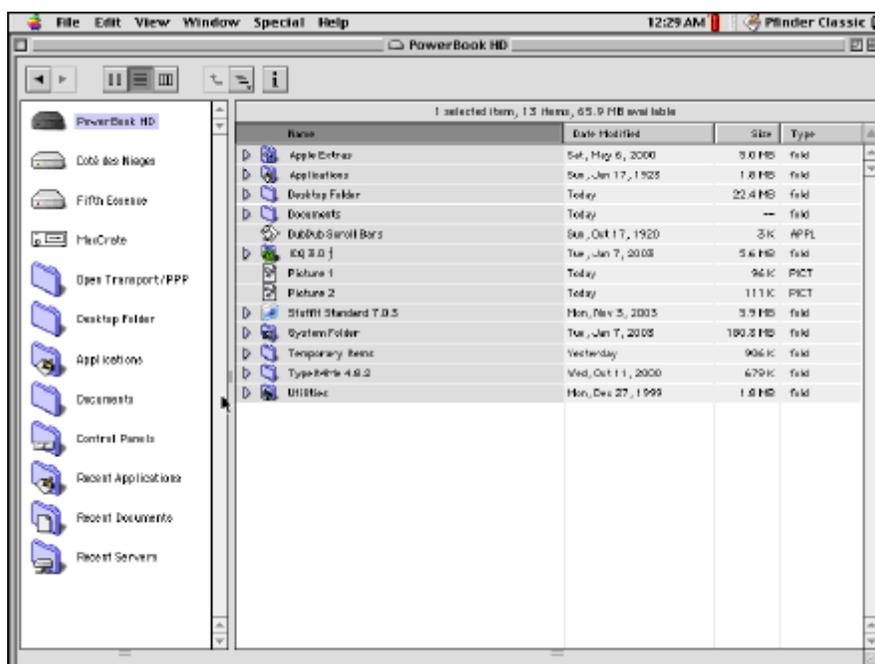


The Mac OS X columns can be resized by clicking and dragging in the area between the columns. This same resizing technique also works for the info panel, the favorites panel and the favorites groups panel. A single click in the resize area of the info panel or the favorites groups panel will open or close the panel fully.

## Single Window Interface

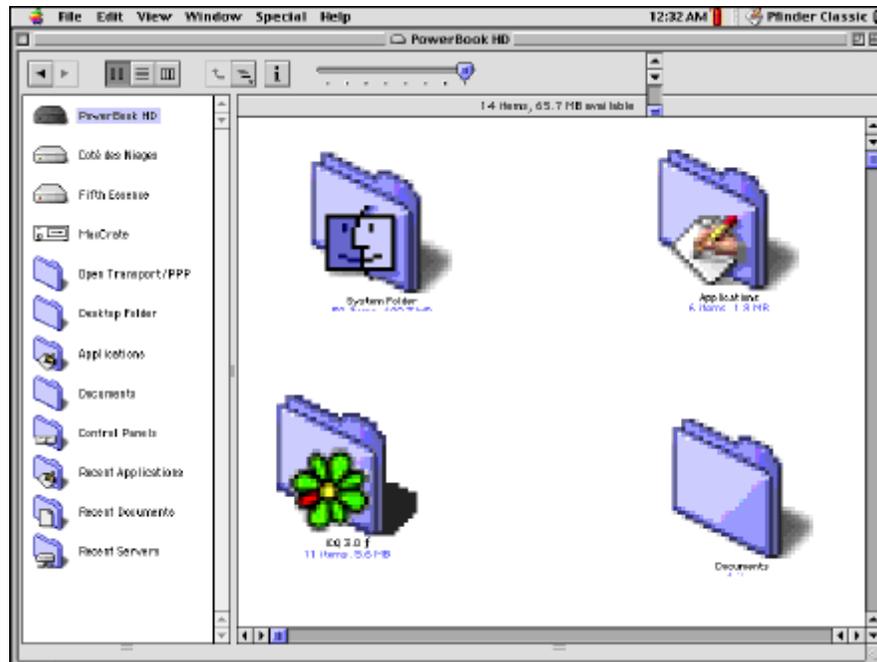
For Mac OS 9 users, Pfinder provides a single window navigation interface to the Finder. When you double click on a folder it does not open up a new window but opens the folder in the same window. (If you want to open a new window, hold the option key down). But like Mac OS X, Pfinder does hold a history of which folders you have visited and you can go back to them by pressing the forward and backwards arrows in the top left of the window.

## Column View



Pfinder Classic enables Column view in the Classic OS. You can also keyboard navigate by using the arrow keys - up down to select the icons in a column - left arrow to go back to the previous column - and right arrow to create a new column if you have a folder currently selected (with an arrow pointing right). If you have an application or file selected, right arrow will open it.

## Icon Scaling



Mac OS X provides larger icons, up to 128 x 128 pixels. Although most icons in Mac OS 9 are only 32 x 32 pixels, there are some custom icons that have been created recently that are a full 128 x 128 pixels. These can now be shown in Mac OS 9. Old Mac OS 9 icons look pretty "jaggy" when scaled, but this can be useful for those with visual disabilities. Adjust icon sizes with the slider at the top of the Pfinder window.

## Extra Info under Icons



In OS X you can choose to show extra info under a Finder icon in blue. This includes the folder size and number of items within the folder for folders, the file size for files, and the file size and pixel dimensions for images. Image files will also show a larger, more accurate representation of the image from the actual image data from the file. This can be turned off in the Preferences dialog. A full 128 x 128 pixel thumbnail of the image is shown in the info panel.

Pfinder also supports desktop pictures.

## What Pfinder will not do (yet)

**Copy or move files:** When you drag a file into the main Pfinder window it will not copy or move the file. However it will switch views to show the folder that file is in and select it. This is the same behavior as the new Navigation Services open and save dialogs. However, when you drag a file out of Pfinder into a real Finder window (or Desktop), the real Finder WILL copy or move the file as Pfinder provides the correct information in the dragged item to allow the Finder to do this.

**Spring loaded folders:** This will appear when Pfinder supports copying or moving of files and folders.

**Custom icons in the Info Panel:** Add any custom icons to your files and folders in the real Finder by selecting 'Get Info in Finder' from the File menu.

And even if you have no immediate interest in upgrading to Panther, or use a machine for which this is not an option, Pfinder is well worth checking out for the extra functionality it adds, especially to OS 9.

Pfinder is a tiny download (less than 300 KB), and being an application it doesn't add any patches to your system.

System requirements:

- Macintosh PowerPC
- OS 9.0 up
- Carbon Library
- 2 MB free RAM
- 1 MB hard disk space

Pfinder is \$10 demoware.