# Conflict Catcher 4

QUICK REFERENCE

Conflict Catcher 4's Main Window

Conflict Catcher 4's main window is where you'll be doing most of your startup file testing and management work, so it's important to get to know its major elements...

In the upper left corner of the window, you'll find the Set: menu. This menu lets you activate customized groups of startup files which you can use to tailor your system for a specific job or person.
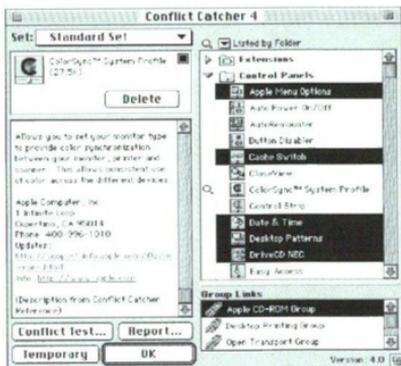
Just below the Set: menu is the "information window". When you're Conflict Testing, this window summarizes testing progress and what to do next. When you "magnify" a startup file's detail information, by clicking just to the left of its name in the Startup File List (see below), the information window changes to include a description of what the startup file does and, in many cases, Internet hot links that let you visit the manufacturer's web site with a single click. Otherwise, you'll see your registration information and an estimate of the memory used by your startup files.

Below the information window, you'll see the option buttons, including [Conflict Test...], which isolates the startup files responsible for system problems, and [Report...], which creates a comprehensive analysis of your system. The buttons displayed will change depending on when you open the main window—the [Temporary] and [OK] buttons only appear when it's opened at startup time.

The "Startup File List," located on the right side of the main window, includes the icons and names of all startup files in your system, and whether they're enabled or disabled. Additional information is available from two menus above the Startup File List. The Listed By menu lets you change your view (i.e., how your startup files are organized in the list), and the detail menu lets you select the details displayed in the Startup File List's 2nd column. Some views include list entries in bold text just to the right of a triangle— these are startup file "categories" which aid in learning about and managing similar startup files. The files in each category are displayed indented beneath the category title.

Conflict Testing

Conflict Testing Can—Rule out startup files as a source of system problems.
Determine which startup file(s) cause a system problem.
Organize sets and links to avert future conflicts.

Conflict Testing Cant—Isolate more than one startup file conflict at a time.
Find the culprit in a startup file conflict without your input.
Reliably isolate the culprit in an "intermittent" problem.
Isolate non-startup file problems.
"Fix" a startup file that is causing a problem.

Starting A Conflict Test

*Before you start a test, it's important to understand that Conflict Catcher 4 is designed to isolate the culprits in **existing**, **reproducible** startup file conflicts.*

Click on the [**Conflict Test...**] button in the main window's lower left corner and Conflict Catcher 4 will display the Conflict Testing Checklist dialog. This 4-item list "walks you through" Conflict Catcher 4's testing options...

	Conflict Test Checklist	Only start a Conflict Test if you are currently having problems.
1	Describe the problem and specify what is being tested.	✓
2	Inspect your startup files and System Software for corruption.	✓
3	Use your intuition to specify which files might be causing the problem.	[Skip] [Do It...]
4	Lock on startup files that are necessary for your system.	

[Cancel Test]

1. Describe the problem and specify what's being tested.

Click [**Do It...**] and enter a problem description, including the symptom, the testing options that you plan to use, and, if you're testing a set, its name. Then select the files that you want to test. If the problem occurs at startup time (i.e., you see a "system bomb" dialog or your system "freezes"), select **Startup Files**. If the problem occurs after the Finder appears, your should select **Everything**.

2. Inspect your startup files and system software for corruption.

Click [**Do It...**] to scan all enabled startup files and other key system software components (i.e., the System file, the Finder, etc.) for damaged resources.

3. Use your intuition to specify which files might be causing the problem.

Click (**Do It...**) if you have an idea about which startup files may be responsible for your system problem and would like to test them *before* the general test begins.

4. Lock on any startup files that are necessary for your system.

Click (**Do It...**) if any startup files must always be active for your system to operate correctly (i.e., files that enable special monitors, processor accelerators, CD-ROM drives, non-Apple mice, etc.) or for you to check for the problem (i.e., shared libraries, networking startup files, etc.).

Conducting A Conflict Test

Only after you've stopped at each **Conflict Testing Checklist** item will the (**Start Conflict Test**) button appear in the lower right corner of the dialog. Click it to start the actual testing process...

5. Click (**OK**) in the main window and then check for the problem.

How you check for the problem depends on the nature of the problem that you're experiencing. If you are testing for a problem that occurs at startup time (before the desktop appears), note whether you get to the desktop (problem gone), or you don't get to the desktop (problem present). If the problem only shows up when you're working in the **Finder**, repeat the steps that usually cause the problem to occur and note if it happens (problem exists) or it has temporarily disappeared (problem gone).

6. Restart your system.

If you can't select **Restart** from the Finder's **Special** menu, try pressing [control]-[⌘]-Power, the system reset button, or power-down and power-up again.

7. Report the results to Conflict Catcher 4.

Conflict Catcher 4 will display a dialog asking "Does the problem exist?" Relay the results of the check you made for the problem a moment ago. If the problem disappeared, click [**Problem Gone**]. If the problem still showed up, click [**Problem Exists**]. If you can't recall what happened, click [**Repeat Test, I Forgot.**] and Conflict Catcher 4 will repeat the last testing cycle.

8. If Conflict Catcher 4 doesn't name the culprit(s), start the next cycle (return to step 5 above).

Concluding A Conflict Test

Once Conflict Catcher 4 has isolated the first startup file that's contributing to the problem, you're ready to "wrap up" the Conflict Testing process...

9. If Conflict Catcher 4 hasn't found the entire problem, continue testing.

When a culprit is named, you can choose to check for additional culprits by continuing the test or you can stop testing immediately. It's a good idea to click [**Continue Testing**] since more than one startup file may be causing the problem. As each culprit is found, it will be marked with an "X" in the Startup File List.

10. Handle the culprits.

Once you've completed the testing process, Conflict Catcher 4 will display a list of the startup files responsible for causing your problem and ask how you'd like to handle them. In most cases, you'll be given the option to disable the culprits—click [**Yes**] to effectively "turn them off "until you can permanently resolve the problem. If two culprits are named, you'll be given the option to try reordering the culprits—click [**Yes**] to see if the problem can be solved by changing their load order.

11. Return to the Finder.

After you've chosen how to handle the culprits, Conflict Catcher 4 will display its main window to give you a chance to review the results of the test. You should normally click [**OK**] to record any changes that you've made and start your system up with those changes. Click [**Temporary**] to recognize the changes just once, giving you the opportunity to successfully start your system without recording them.

Sets

Conflict Catcher 4 sets let you quickly customize your system's startup files to suit specific jobs that you do with your Macintosh. A set consists of two sections—its startup characteristics, which determine how and when it can be activated, and its enabled/disabled list, which determines which startup files will be "on" and "off" when the set is active. To create a set, follow these simple steps...

1. **Select Edit Sets... from Conflict Catcher 4's Sets menu.**

2. **Click** `Create...` **and the** Edit Sets **dialog will appear.**

3. **Select the set's startup characteristics...**
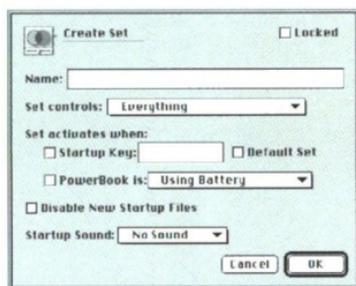
   Name: The name of the set should reflect what the set is for.

   Set Controls: Determines which files the set affects when it's activated (**Everything**, "plug-ins," etc.)

   Startup Key: Names a key that activates the set at startup time.

   Default Set: The default set is activated automatically if no other set is selected.

   PowerBook is: Causes the set to be loaded at startup time based on PowerBook system status.

   Disable New Startup Files: Forces newly installed files to be disabled in this particular set.

   Startup Sound: Associates a sound (played at system startup time) when this set is activated.

   Locked: Protects a set from being modified.

4. **Return to Conflict Catcher 4's main window, customize the set's enabled/disabled list, and select Save Set from the Sets menu.**

A set can be activated at startup time by holding down its **Startup Key**, if its **PowerBook is** condition is satisfied, or if it is the **Default Set**.

Links

Conflict Catcher 4 links establish relationships between startup files which simplify the management and testing of those files. There are three different types of links...

Group—A group link's files always have the same status. So if you enable or disable one of the linked files, the others follow suit.

Incompatible—Only one file in an incompatible link can be enabled at a time, so when you enable one, all of the others are disabled.

Forced Order—A forced order link prevents changes in the load order of its member files.

To create and manage links, open the Links dialog by selecting **Edit Links...** from Conflict Catcher 4's **Special** menu.

Keyboard Shortcuts

Some helpful keyboard shortcuts for working with Conflict Catcher 4 Startup File List, System Report, and On-Line Help include the following...

| ↑ ↓ | Moves up/down one startup file name in the Startup File List. Moves up/down one line if you're viewing the System Report or On-Line Help. |

| PgUp PgDn | Move up/down one screen's worth of startup file names in the Startup File List. Moves up/down one page in the System Report or On-Line Help. |

| home end | Moves to the top/bottom of the Startup File List, or to the first/last page of the System Report or On-Line Help. |

Some useful keyboard shortcuts that you can use during the startup process include...

| ⌘ R | Restarts your system immediately. |

| ⌘ S | Shuts your system down immediately. |

| ⌘ . | Stops loading startup files and goes immediately to the Finder. |

| tab | Hold down tab to pause at the end of the startup file loading process. |

| ⌘ P | Pauses the startup file loading process until you press ⌘ P again. |