

**Check for Updates**

Make sure you have the latest information!



**TidBITS** Publishing Inc.

**Take Control of**

**v1.0**

# Bookle

**Adam C. Engst**

[Help](#)

[Catalog](#)

[Feedback](#)

[Blog](#)

[Order Print Copy](#)

# Table of Contents

## Read Me First

Updates and More .....	3
Basics .....	3

## Introduction

### Manage EPUBs in Bookle

Understand Bookle's Library .....	7
Add EPUBs to Your Library .....	8
Delete EPUBs from Your Library .....	9

### Read EPUBs in Bookle

Switch between EPUBs .....	10
Scroll within an EPUB .....	11
Change EPUB Display .....	13
Listen to an EPUB .....	16

### Understand EPUB

Find EPUB Books .....	18
Create EPUB-formatted Files .....	21

### About This Book

Ebook Extras .....	28
About the Author .....	28
About the Publisher .....	29

### Copyright and Fine Print

### Featured Titles

# Read Me First

Welcome to *Take Control of Bookle*, version 1.0, published in January 2012 by TidBITS Publishing Inc. This book was written by Adam C. Engst and edited by Tonya Engst.

This book teaches you everything you need to know to read DRM-free EPUBs in Bookle, the EPUB-reading app created as a joint project of TidBITS Publishing Inc. and Stairways Software. Why? Because the Mac world needs a good EPUB reader.

Copyright © 2012, TidBITS Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

---

## Updates and More

---

You can [access extras related to this ebook](#) on the Web. On the ebook's Take Control Extras page, you can:

- Find out about any available new version of the ebook.
- Download various formats, including PDF, EPUB, and—usually—Mobipocket. (Learn about reading this ebook on handheld devices at <http://www.takecontrolbooks.com/device-advice>.)
- Read postings to the ebook's blog. These may include details of Bookle updates, new tips for using Bookle, or other useful information, as well as links to author interviews.
- Add the ebook to your Take Control account (create one if necessary) to be notified by email of important updates to Bookle.

---

## Basics

---

Here are a few rules of the road that will help you read this book:

- **Menus:** Where I describe choosing a command from a menu in the menu bar, I use an abbreviated description. For example, the abbreviated description for the menu command that opens an ebook in Bookle is “File > Open.”

- **Contextual menus:** *Contextual* menus, also known as *secondary menus*—appear when you Control-click various elements on a Macintosh screen, including Dock items and files in Finder windows. To describe opening a contextual menu, I usually I tell you to Control-click an item on the screen. If your mouse offers a right-click option, or if you use a trackpad or other means of opening a contextual menu, you should feel free to use the method you prefer.
- **Finding System Preferences:** I sometimes refer to settings in System Preferences that you may want to adjust. To open System Preferences, click its icon in the Dock or choose System Preferences from the Apple  menu. When the System Preferences window opens, click the icon of the pane whose settings you want to adjust. I refer to these panes using an abbreviated notation such as “the Speech preference pane.”
- **Path syntax:** This book occasionally uses a *path* to show the location of a file or folder in your file system. For example, Mac OS X stores most utilities, such as Terminal, in the Utilities folder. The path to Terminal is: `/Applications/Utilities/Terminal`.

The slash at the beginning of the path tells you to start from the root level of the disk. You will also encounter paths that begin with `~` (tilde), which is a shortcut for the user’s home directory. For example, if a person with the user name `joe` wants to install fonts that only he can access, he would install the fonts in his `~/Library/Fonts` folder, which is just another way of writing `/Users/joe/Library/Fonts`.

- **User Library:** The library folder mentioned in the previous paragraph, `~/Library`, is normally invisible in Lion. To see it, hold down the Option key and choose Go > Library in the Finder.

# Introduction

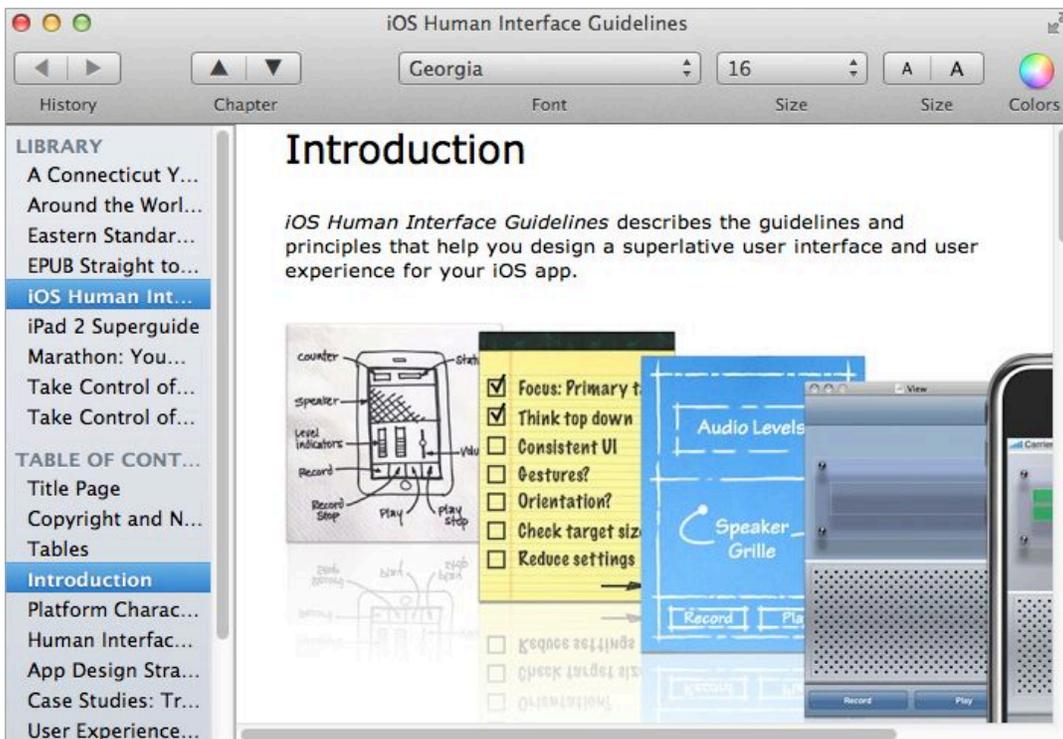
Welcome to Bookle! This book, and the program that it documents, is a departure for us. Here at TidBITS Publishing, we're used to helping people learn how to use programs designed and written by others. But Bookle is different. It's the result of a four-hour drive that I took to a Mac user group meeting, which gave me ample time to ponder the state of the ebook world. By the time I finished the trip, I had decided that the Mac needed a native program devoted to ebook reading, and particularly one designed with a Mac user's sensibility and that could display books in the EPUB format. Not being a programmer, though, I started thinking about who I could convince to write Bookle from my design.

Almost immediately, my friend Peter Lewis of Stairways Software came to mind, since he's well known for writing programs like FTPd, Anarchie (later called Interarchy), and, most recently, Keyboard Maestro. Although Peter is from Australia, we've known each other since the early days of the Internet, when I accidentally invited him to visit me in Seattle for a week after nothing more than some email exchanges. (Moral of the story: It turns out that Australians will travel nearly anywhere when they're on the right continent.)

Peter is a top-notch programmer, and with only a brief delay caused by throwing out his back in what I hope was not a Mac-related accident, he figured out the EPUB spec and built the Bookle app in record time. With Bookle and our test EPUB documents in Dropbox, we went back and forth for a while on testing and tweaking, and before long, Bookle 1.0 was ready.

It's worth taking a moment to talk about what we mean by that 1.0 version number. We have lots of ideas for features we'd like to add to Bookle, ranging from support for additional formats to a full ebook library management interface, but let's be realistic here—Apple is the 800-pound gorilla in the room. Part of the reason I came up with the idea for Bookle is that Apple has failed to build EPUB support into Mac OS X 10.7 Lion in any way. Not in Preview, not in Safari, not in iTunes, not anywhere.

So our goal with Bookle 1.0 is to get a program out quickly that can help you read your ebooks in the here and now (**Figure 1**).



**Figure 1:** With Bookle, you can read EPUBs on your Mac now!

As long as Bookle remains popular and Apple doesn't crush us underfoot with built-in EPUB support, we'll keep improving the program with features we have planned and from feedback we get from users. We've started a UserVoice site at <http://bookle.uservoice.com/>, where you can vote for your favorite ideas and add new ones.

The one feature I don't know if we'll be able to add, though, is support for ebooks that are encrypted with digital rights management code (DRM), including many books from the iBookstore and other ebook resellers. DRM is generally thought of as a way of preventing digital content from being copied, but the side effect that big companies like Apple and Amazon really appreciate is that it prevents anyone from offering competing, interoperable ebook reader products.

Neither Apple nor Amazon will license their DRM systems, and while Adobe will license Adobe Digital Editions, it's a six-figure cost that effectively eliminates all but the largest of companies from the game. So, our apologies in advance, but I don't think there's anything we'll be able to do with DRM-shackled ebooks.

But enough naysaying—let's take a look at Bookle and EPUB!

# Manage EPUBs in Bookle

Before you can read an EPUB in Bookle, you'll need to add it to your Bookle library. Luckily, that's trivially easy, and it's equally easy to remove EPUBs that you've read or no longer wish to keep around.

---

**Installing Bookle:** *If you don't have Bookle installed yet, you can purchase it for \$9.99 from the Mac App Store. Bookle requires at least Mac OS X 10.6.8 Snow Leopard or 10.7 Lion. To learn more, visit <http://bookle.stairways.com/>.*

---

## Understand Bookle's Library

---

Bookle works a bit like iTunes in that it can open EPUB files from anywhere on your hard disk, but upon opening them, it *copies* the file into a special location for future use. (The original remains intact and is never touched.) That way, when you want to return to reading an ebook tomorrow, you don't have to open the file from the Finder again, since it's ready and waiting for you in Bookle.

To meet the Mac App Store's sandboxing requirements, Bookle can't just use a folder in `~/Documents`. Instead, EPUBs are stored in one of two places, depending on whether you're using Mac OS X 10.7 Lion or 10.6 Snow Leopard:

- Lion: `~/Library/Containers/com.stairways.Bookle/Data/Library/Application Support/Bookle`
- Snow Leopard: `~/Library/Application Support/Bookle`

I'm telling you this so you know how things work behind the scenes, and so you can make sure you know where your EPUBs are for backup purposes or if you need to send one to a friend. That said...

---

**Warning!** *You should never add or remove files from this folder manually: Bookle won't see any new files that appear here without its knowledge, and deleted files won't be removed from your library properly (they'll still appear in it, but can't be viewed).*

---

Luckily, it's easy to add and remove EPUBs from Bookle. If you don't have any to work with, you can either [Find EPUB Books](#) or [Create EPUB-formatted Files](#).

---

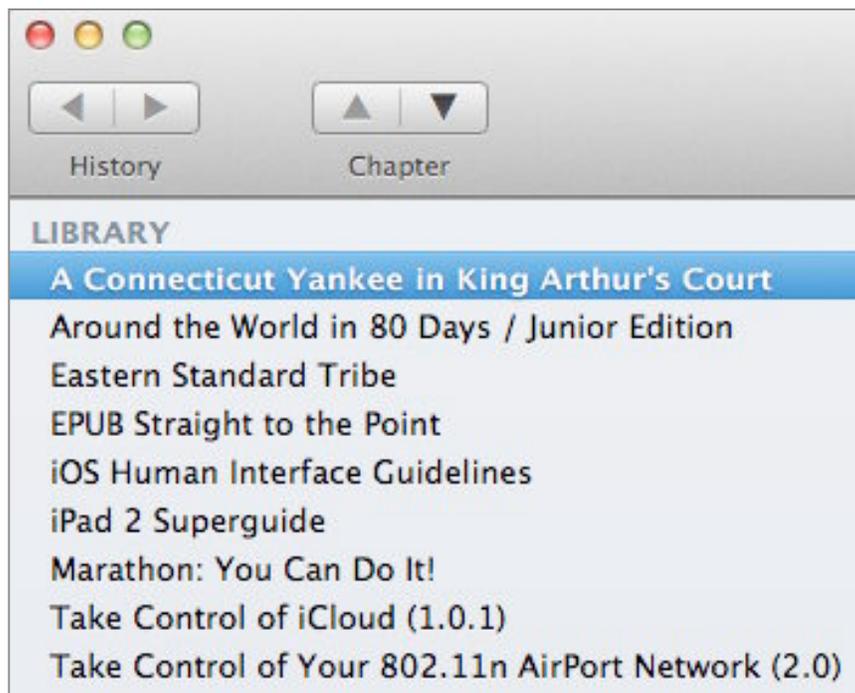
## Add EPUBs to Your Library

---

There are a number of ways to add EPUBs to your Bookle library:

- From within Bookle, choose File > Open and select the EPUB in the Open dialog.
- In the Finder, drag the EPUB file onto Bookle's icon in the Dock or the Finder.
- In the Finder, double-click the EPUB file. Note that this method—and any other way you open files in the Finder—may not work if some other application has set itself to open files with the .epub filename extension.

Regardless of how you add the EPUB, Bookle makes a copy of it internally and displays it alphabetically within the list of titles in your library (**Figure 2**). The original file remains untouched and in its original location.



**Figure 2:** Look in the sidebar at the left of the Bookle window to see the Library listing of all the EPUBs that you've added to Bookle.

Whether or not you choose to maintain your original EPUB separately from Bookle's copy is up to you, since you can always recover the file from Bookle's internal storage location mentioned previously.

---

## Delete EPUBs from Your Library

---

At the moment, there's only a single way to remove an EPUB from your library, since it's something you're unlikely to want to do all that often. To do so:

1. Select the title you want to delete in the Library.
2. Choose File > Delete Book.
3. In the confirmation dialog, click the Delete button.

To reiterate, deleting an EPUB from Bookle's library affects only Bookle's internal copy of the file.

### Sorting and Managing Your Bookle Library

Since our goal with Bookle 1.0 was to make it available quickly so people could start reading EPUBs on their Macs, there's currently no way to sort the library other than alphabetically by title. In a future version of Bookle, we're planning an interface that would let you sort based on title, author, date added, date last read, and other bits of metadata. If this sounds appealing, vote for the idea in our UserVoice forum: <http://bookle.uservoice.com/forums/139729-feature-suggestions/suggestions/2528805>.

### Bug or Other Infelicity?

If you should experience a bug or other problem with Bookle, please let us know at [bookle-support@stairways.com](mailto:bookle-support@stairways.com) so we can fix it.

# Read EPUBs in Bookle

Once you've added EPUBs to your library, it's time to read them. I assume you have the whole reading thing down, but there are a few details and niceties that you might not realize on your own.

---

## Switch between EPUBs

---

As I mentioned previously, any time you open an EPUB in Bookle, it is automatically added to your library, so there's no need to open it from the Finder again. (However, if you open a book already in the library, Bookle is smart enough to avoid adding it again, assuming the file is exactly the same as the one that's already stored.)

Also, when you open an EPUB for the first time, Bookle automatically displays the table of contents and first page of that book. How do you then switch to reading a different EPUB?

Simple. Just click its title in the Library section of the sidebar at the left. Nothing more is necessary, and if you were reading the EPUB previously, Bookle automatically returns you to where you were before.

In Lion, Bookle also tries to remember which EPUB you were reading last when you quit, so it can open that file and return you to the previous location when you next launch the app.

If you're using Snow Leopard, or if you hold the Option key down and choose File > Quit and Close All Windows in Lion, Bookle won't reopen your last-read EPUB. Instead, it opens a new window showing the contents of the library but without a book selected. Just click one in the Library section and you'll be all set.

## Want to Open Multiple EPUBs Simultaneously?

Let's say you want to compare two versions of an EPUB, or you're researching a topic using multiple EPUB files. Although it's easy to switch between EPUBs by clicking their titles in the Library section of the sidebar, it might be better to have several showing at once. To accomplish that, choose File > Open Library (Command-N).

Once you have multiple windows open, you can tile or stack them however makes sense for your screen space. You can close a window by choosing File > Close (Command-W), or, if you've ended up with a bunch of windows open, hold down Option and choose File > Close All (Command-Option-W).

---

## Scroll within an EPUB

---

Moving around within an EPUB in Bookle uses all the standard mechanisms you're accustomed to from other Mac applications, with two slightly unusual differences.

First, like a Web browser (and Bookle is very much like a Web browser, given that EPUB files are essentially HTML files), Bookle keeps track of your history, that is, the list of actions that you take while clicking links in an EPUB. So if you're reading along in a Take Control ebook, for instance, and you click an internal link to jump to another part of the book, you can use the Back button in the toolbar, a keyboard shortcut, or a menu item to return your previous location, just as you would in a Web browser. And once you've jumped back, the Forward command takes you forward again.

Second, just as Web sites are split up among multiple Web pages, EPUB files are generally split up into chapters. The Table of Contents section of the sidebar (**Figure 3**) lists the EPUB's chapters (which may have subheads—Take Control ebooks have two-level tables of contents, for instance).



TABLE OF CONTENTS

- ▶ Read Me First
  - Introduction
  - iCloud Quick Start
- ▼ Get to Know iCloud
  - What Is iCloud?
  - Major iCloud Features
  - Differences from MobileMe
  - About iCloud System Requirements
  - About Your Apple ID
- ▶ Set Up and Explore iCloud

**Figure 3:** Click entries in the Table of Contents at the left (shown here) to move around in the text of your ebook at the right.

Click any entry in the Table of Contents section of the sidebar to view the start of its text in the main pane of the Bookle window. Of course, you can also read a multiple-chapter EPUB straight through; the easiest way to move from the end of one chapter to the beginning of the next is to press the Space bar.

**Table 1** lists all of the ways that you can move around within an EPUB in Bookle.

<b>Table 1: Bookle Navigation Commands</b>	
<b>Action</b>	<b>Command</b>
<b>Scroll by line</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up/Down arrow keys</li> <li>• Two-fingered trackpad gestures</li> <li>• Scroll wheel</li> </ul>
<b>Scroll by page</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Page Up/Down keys</li> <li>• Space bar (scrolls down only)</li> </ul>
<b>Navigate by history</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Back/Forward toolbar buttons</li> <li>• Go &gt; Back, Go &gt; Forward menu items</li> <li>• Cmd-[ and Cmd-] keyboard shortcuts</li> </ul>
<b>Navigate by chapter</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Click a chapter name in the Table of Contents section of the sidebar</li> <li>• Next/Previous toolbar buttons</li> <li>• Go &gt; Next Chapter, Go &gt; Previous Chapter menu items</li> <li>• Cmd-left arrow and Cmd-right-arrow keyboard shortcuts</li> <li>• Spacebar (at the end of a chapter)</li> </ul>

---

## **Change EPUB Display**

---

Everyone has different preferences when it comes to reading onscreen. Some people prefer large text in serif fonts; others are happier with relatively small font sizes and sans serif fonts. Plus, the bright white of the Mac's screen, while providing excellent contrast with black letters, can be a bit glaring for lengthy reading; some people prefer a soothing gray or sepia background.

Bookle lets you choose the font, size, and background color for each EPUB separately, and remembers your settings for each file. So, you could have one book that uses 20 point Georgia and a light yellow

background and another that instead appears in 18 point Century Schoolbook with a white background—it's entirely up to you.

Or rather, it *may* be up to you. Some EPUBs specify their own CSS stylesheets and don't allow certain aspects of them to be overridden. For instance, we've seen one EPUB where Bookle's font and size settings are ignored, but the background color can be changed. And in other EPUBs, the font and size can be changed, but the background color remains stuck at white. So if you attempt to tweak what an EPUB looks like and nothing happens, it's because the author hasn't allowed it. Sorry!

## **Change the Font**

To change the font, simply choose the desired font face from the Font pop-up menu in the toolbar. (If the toolbar isn't showing because you've hidden it to have more reading space, choose View > Show Toolbar.)

Bookle provides access to all the fonts installed on your Mac, so experiment to see which you prefer. If your Mac is anything like mine, you probably have a bunch of special-purpose fonts that might be good for a flyer or invitation, but which aren't appropriate for reading straight text for any amount of time.

My advice is to stick with familiar fonts like Georgia, Helvetica, Palatino, and Verdana, since they are classics that are generally well-designed for onscreen reading.

## **Change the Font Size**

Don't bother changing the font size until you've chosen a font face, since every font will have a somewhat different base size and while 12 point might be appropriate for one, 18 point might be best for another.

You can choose a specific size from the Size pop-up menu in the toolbar (again, if it's hidden, choose View > Show Toolbar), or you can click the Size buttons in the toolbar to step up and down through the specified font sizes. The buttons perform the same action as the View > Bigger and View > Smaller menu items, and the Command-+ and Command-- keyboard shortcuts.

Personally, I prefer picking a font face and then using the keyboard shortcuts to adjust the font size for optimal viewing.

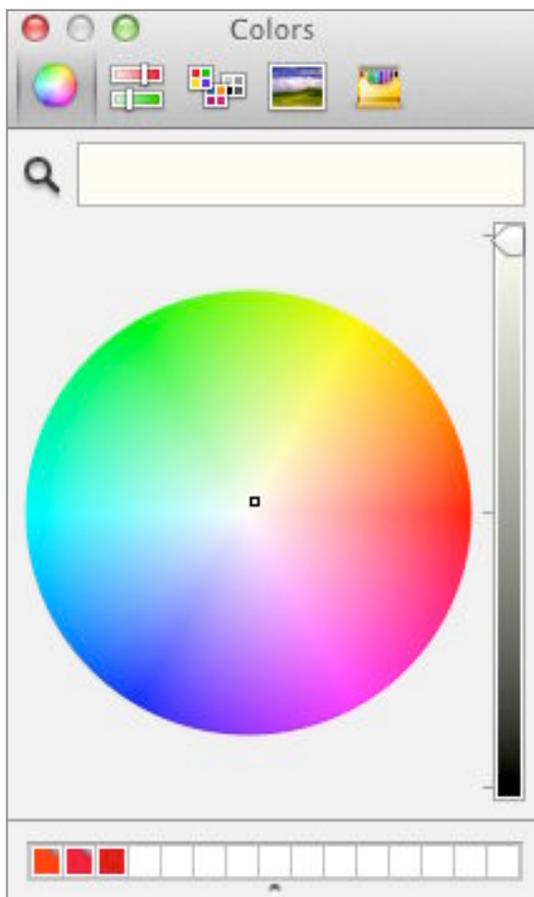
## And This Line Length Was “Just Right.”

It’s not clear that there is a “right” answer when it comes to how long lines should be. Some modern research suggests that people read fastest with longer line lengths (up to 10 inches, or 25 cm) but may find moderate line lengths (around 5 inches, or 12 cm) more comfortable. Also the amount of blank space between lines can change the comfortable reading width of the lines.

Although font face and size affect line length, you can change the line length of EPUBs in Bookle by adjusting the window size (unless you’re reading in full-screen mode in Lion) and by dragging the divider between the sidebar and the main content pane.

## Change the Background Color

Finally, you can change the background color; just click the Color button in the toolbar and move the selection point around in the color picker (**Figure 4**). If the EPUB allows the background color to be changed, the color will change as you move the selection point.



**Figure 4:** Choose a background color in the color picker.

Generally you'll want to pick a relatively light color to maintain the strong contrast with the black letters.

**Note:** In Bookle 1.0, there's no way to set the color of the text, which unfortunately precludes creating the white or green text on black background display that some people like. If you're in this camp, be sure to vote for this feature on our UserVoice forum so we can see how desired it is: <http://bookle.uservoice.com/forums/139729-feature-suggestions/suggestions/2528912>.

---

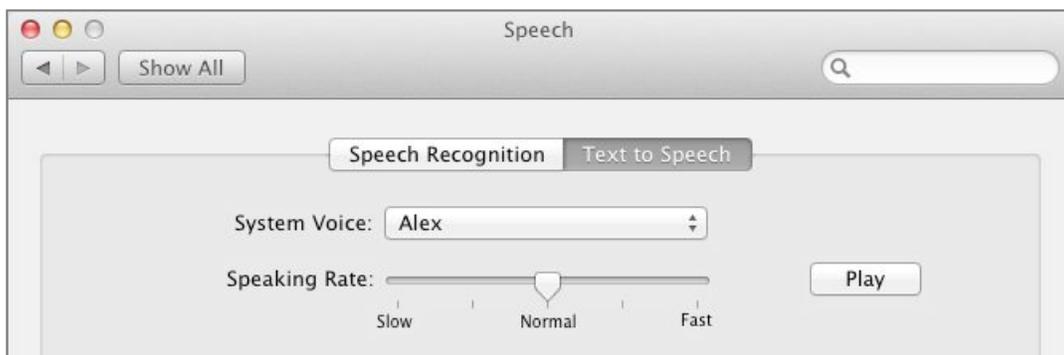
## Listen to an EPUB

---

There's one other way you can “read” an EPUB in Bookle, and that's by having Mac OS X's speech synthesis read it out loud to you. In 10.6 Snow Leopard, the Alex voice is particularly good, and in 10.7 Lion, Apple introduced a number of additional high-quality voices. You won't mistake them for a professional reader in an audiobook, but it might be a good way to enjoy an EPUB while you're cooking.

To choose a voice for Bookle, follow these steps:

1. Launch Mac OS X's System Preferences, open the Speech pane, and click the Text to Speech button.
2. From the System Voice pop-up menu, choose a voice (**Figure 5**). Or, to add more voices to the menu, choose Customize (Lion) or Show More Voices (Snow Leopard).



**Figure 5:** Choose a voice and speaking rate.

3. If you like, you can adjust how quickly or slowly the voice reads using the Speaking Rate slider.

## Use Airfoil to Listen Through Your Stereo

If you have one of Apple's AirPort Express base stations for listening to music streamed wirelessly from iTunes, you can use it to listen to Bookle reading your EPUB to you as well. What you need to make this happen is the Airfoil software from Rogue Amoeba. With it, you can stream audio wirelessly to an AirPort Express (or any other AirPlay-compatible device, or even another Mac running Airfoil Speakers) from any application, not just iTunes. Airfoil costs \$25 and is available from <http://www.rogueamoeba.com/airfoil/>.

You have two choices when it comes to listening to an EPUB. You can either have Bookle read an entire chapter to you, or you can select a portion of the chapter to read.

To have Bookle read an entire chapter, follow these steps:

1. In the EPUB you want Bookle to read out loud, navigate to the chapter you want Bookle to read.
2. If you clicked in the table of contents to navigate to your chapter, click once more in the text of the EPUB.
3. Choose Edit > Speech > Start Speaking.

After a pause to load the voice, Bookle starts reading, and it reads everything until the end of the chapter. To stop the reading sooner, choose Edit > Speech > Stop Speaking.

In a few EPUBs, such as some I've seen from Project Gutenberg, each chapter contains front matter that you probably don't want to hear. To avoid listening to it, select just the portion of the chapter you want to hear before choosing Edit > Speech > Start Speaking.

## Faster Selection

While you can just select text by clicking and dragging, if you want to select almost all of a chapter, a faster approach is to choose Edit > Select All (Command-A), hold down the Shift key, and click where you want to deselect some of the selected text. If you Shift-click near the top of the file, Bookle deselects the text above where you clicked; if you click near the bottom of the file, the text below your click is deselected.

# Understand EPUB

*EPUB* is an industry standard developed by the International Digital Publishing Forum (IDPF) for reflowable electronic books that can be read on any platform, regardless of screen size. In essence, the EPUB format is just a collection of HTML files with a CSS stylesheet that controls how they look, all compressed into a special Zip archive.

EPUB isn't the only ebook standard out there, but it has some unique advantages over others. Adobe's Portable Document Format (PDF) is nearly ubiquitous (and is, indeed, the primary format we use for our Take Control ebooks), but it's a page-based format that tends to work poorly on small-screened devices like the iPhone and iPod touch. And while Amazon's Mobipocket format is reflowable, like EPUB, it is used pretty much exclusively by Amazon's Kindle devices and applications. Because of this, many books are being converted to EPUB format.

Plus, as EPUB grows in popularity, it's becoming increasingly easy to create EPUB files, making it a good format for read-only documents of various types. So, if you have long documents in Microsoft Word that you want to read on an airplane trip, for instance, converting them to EPUB would be a good way to get them into a format you can read on your iPhone. And with Bookle, you can now read those EPUBs on your Mac as well.

In this chapter, I help you find existing EPUB books and talk about how you can [Create EPUB-formatted Files](#) from a variety of sources.

---

## Find EPUB Books

---

So what's available to read in EPUB format? Lots, and especially all those classics of Western literature that are out of copyright and available for everyone to read. (I was a little embarrassed to realize recently that I'd never read either *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* or *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, something I quickly rectified with quick downloads from Project Gutenberg.) But there are plenty of modern books as well. Here are some of my favorite sources, and if

you know of others, [let me know](#) so I can add them to future versions of this book, or even build them into a Bookle update in some way.

---

***Hey, that's a good idea!*** If you'd like to see us build EPUB acquisition into Bookle, vote for the idea at: <http://bookle.uservice.com/forums/139729-feature-suggestions/suggestions/2528889>.

---

**Tip:** However you find EPUBs, once you've downloaded them, you'll want to [Add EPUBs to Your Library](#).

- **Project Gutenberg:** The granddaddy of all free ebook sites, Project Gutenberg was founded in 1971 by Michael S. Hart, who typed the U.S. Declaration of Independence into an early computer at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The non-profit and volunteer-driven Project Gutenberg offers over 38,000 out-of-copyright ebooks for free download. (<http://www.gutenberg.org/>)
- **epubBooks:** epubBooks offers free titles as well as links to paid content. Many of its books come from Project Gutenberg, but it claims to have better EPUB formatting, so if you find the formatting of a Project Gutenberg book lacking, it may be worth looking for it here. (<http://www.epubbooks.com/>)
- **Feedbooks:** Feedbooks features public domain titles and original books from contemporary authors, many of which are free to download and read. However, beware of their commercial books (check the Protection line in the book description), many of which use Adobe Digital Editions DRM and which won't be readable in Bookle. (<http://www.feedbooks.com/>)
- **Baen Free Library:** The venerable science fiction publisher Baen Books makes a number of its titles available for free download under the entirely correct assumption that once you've enjoyed one book from an author, you're more likely to want to buy more. I particularly enjoyed their collection of books by Keith Laumer. (<http://www.baen.com/library/>)
- **iBookstore:** Although it's tempting to download EPUB books from Apple's iBookstore, and many of them are free, there's no way to tell in advance if the book has been shackled with DRM that will prevent you from reading it in Bookle. Whether or not a book has

DRM on it is entirely up to the publisher (all our Take Control titles in the iBookstore are DRM-free, of course), but my suspicion is that most non-free titles will have DRM.

To download a free book or buy a commercial one from the iBookstore, you either use iTunes on your Mac, just like with music and apps, or the iBooks app on an iOS device. If you use iBooks, you'll need to sync the file to your Mac.

Once you download a book from the iBookstore, you can determine its DRM status in iTunes on a Mac by clicking Books in the Library section of the sidebar and looking in the Kind column. Books downloaded from sites other than the iBookstore appear as “Book,” DRM-free titles from the iBookstore appear as “Purchased Book,” and DRM-shackled books from the iBookstore are labeled as “Protected Book.”

Once a DRM-free EPUB is on your Mac within the iTunes Books library, you can open it in Bookle, but first you'll need to know where iTunes has stored the EPUB in the folder hierarchy on your Mac's drive. iTunes stores its files deep within an iTunes Media folder; the easiest way to find an ebook's location is to Control-click the ebook's listing in iTunes and then choose Show in Finder.

---

***No Kind column in iTunes?*** Choose *View > List*. If you still don't have a Kind column, choose *View > View Options (Command-J)*, select the Kind checkbox, and click *OK*.

---

**Note:** In late-breaking news, enhanced textbooks created with iBooks Author will almost certainly not work in Bookle—we have very little to test with right now, but we'll be examining those books more closely in the future.

---

## Create EPUB-formatted Files

---

Although there are a wide variety of ways to create EPUB files, for most people, I recommend one of four options:

- Use Apple’s Pages word processor to create a new document or to convert text or Microsoft Word documents, and then export the resulting Pages document to EPUB. See [Create EPUBs in Pages](#).
- Use another word processor or page layout program to create EPUB. Read [Create EPUBs with Other Programs](#).
- [Create EPUBs with Automator](#) if you want to generate EPUBs automatically
- [Convert Other Formats to EPUB](#) using online tools or the open-source app Calibre.

### Build EPUBs from Scratch

If you are comfortable with creating Web pages in a text editor and working with command-line tools, you can make EPUB files from scratch. To learn how to do this, I strongly recommend you read Elizabeth Castro’s book, “EPUB Straight to the Point,” which you can buy (in EPUB format, natch) directly from her Web site at <http://www.elizabethcastro.com/epub/>.

### Create EPUBs in Pages

If you have the Mac version of Pages (<http://www.apple.com/iwork/>), it is by far the easiest way to create EPUBs, and if you don’t already own Pages, it’s only \$19.99 in the Mac App Store, making it an inexpensive purchase. In fact, we’ve moved the entire Take Control publishing process from Microsoft Word to Pages to take advantage of Pages’ EPUB export capabilities.

For the most part, Pages does a pretty good job at replicating the way your source files look in the EPUB version, although there are certain formatting features that Pages doesn’t export, mostly things like paragraph borders.

To get started with making an EPUB in Pages, first download the “EPUB Best Practices” sample document, which is linked within

Apple’s helpful “Creating EPUB Files with Pages” support page at <http://support.apple.com/kb/HT4168>.

### **EPUB or ePub?**

You may notice that Apple has chosen to capitalize the format we’re talking about here as “ePub” rather than “EPUB.” The capitalization that the group in charge of the format—the IDPF—prefers is “EPUB,” but for reasons that have never been explained the IDPF’s logo for EPUB uses mixed case (**Figure 6**).



**Figure 6:** *The IDPF’s EPUB logo.*

Apple’s “EPUB Best Practices” document, while brief, is important because it contains the styles that the Pages EPUB exporter uses to build the EPUB table of contents. Most important among those styles are Chapter Name and Heading. They map, respectively, to the top two levels of the table of contents in the eventual EPUB file. You can change their style definitions in Pages all you want, but make sure you keep their names the same.

**Note:** Be careful, since a new Pages document contains the default styles Heading 1 and Heading 2. Ignore those (they can’t be deleted), since they don’t map to anything in the eventual EPUB’s table of contents.

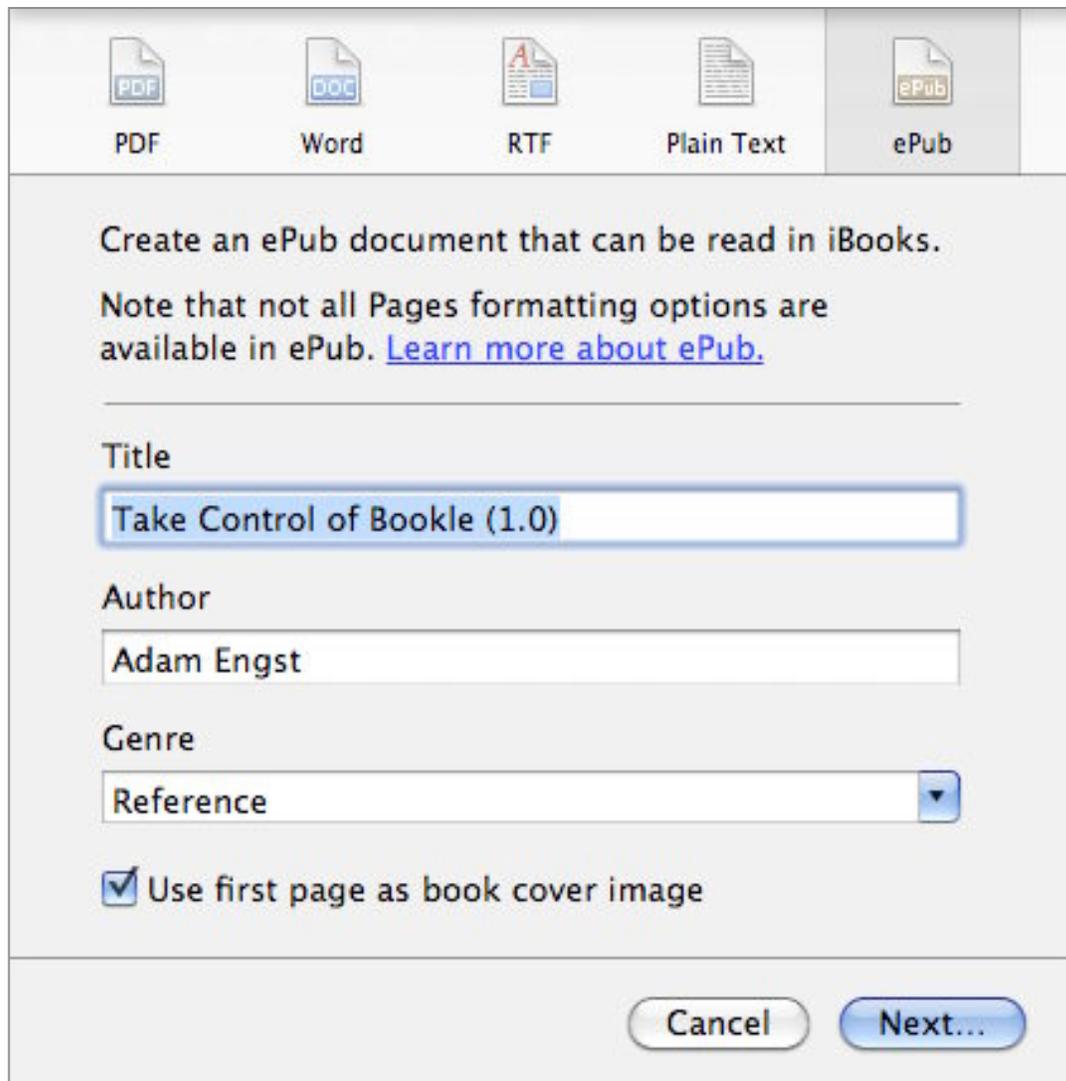
The document also contains additional advice on how to format your document for a good EPUB export, most notably the all-important tip that graphics you want to appear in your EPUB must be placed inline, which you do by Command-dragging them into Pages, or by selecting them and clicking the Inline button in either the Formatting bar at the top of the window or in the Wrap view of the Inspector palette.

Once you have the EPUB Best Practices document, you can either use it as a starting point by replacing its text and graphics with your own, or you can import its styles into an existing Pages document. To do the latter, make sure your document is open and frontmost, choose

Format > Import Styles, and select the EPUB Best Practices document in the Open dialog. Then select all the styles and bring them into your existing document.

After you create your file, follow these steps to export an EPUB:

1. With your file open, choose File > Export, and click the ePub button.
2. Enter a title and, if desired, and author and genre (**Figure 7**).



**Figure 7:** Enter the metadata in the Pages Export dialog.

3. If you want the first page of your document be used as the cover of the EPUB—it will appear in the iBooks interface, for instance, but not in Bookle—select Use First Page as Book Cover Image. (Remember that if you want to use an image on your cover, it must be an inline graphic.)

4. Click Next to switch to a standard Save dialog where you can name your file and save it. It's easiest to save the file to the Desktop and double-click it from there to copy it into Bookle's library.

**Note:** The Hide Extension checkbox in the EPUB Save dialog is selected by default. Although you can deselect it, a bug in Pages 4.1 always causes it to save the file with the .epub filename extension hidden. If you want the extension to appear, you must select the file in the Finder, choose File > Get Info, and deselect the Hide Extension checkbox in the file's Info window.

Since Pages can open Word documents, your best bet for converting Word documents to EPUB may be to open them in Pages, rename Word's Heading 1 style to Chapter Name and Heading 2 to Heading, and then export from within Pages. That's roughly how we convert our older Take Control ebooks to Pages for updating and eventual EPUB export.

### Create EPUBs with Other Programs

Although EPUB has been around for a while, not all that many programs can generate EPUB-formatted files. This is actually a little odd, given how EPUB is an open standard based on other well-understood formats like HTML, CSS, and Zip. Nevertheless, there are a few programs that can generate EPUB.

- **InDesign:** Adobe InDesign is the dominant player in the page layout and publishing market, so it shouldn't be surprising that it can generate good EPUBs. If you're already using InDesign, learning how to export an EPUB is mostly a matter of using the right styles and understanding EPUB's limitations in comparison to InDesign's page-layout capabilities. However, InDesign is a large, complex program, and I wouldn't recommend it as your first step in making EPUBs, in part because it costs somewhere between \$699 and \$2,599, depending on what other Adobe products you get with it. Learn more at <http://www.adobe.com/products/indesign.html>.

**Tip:** If you're going down the InDesign path, I recommend checking out Elizabeth Castro's \$10 ebook *From InDesign CS5 to EPUB and Kindle*. Read more about it at <http://www.pigsgourdsandwikis.com/2011/12/from-indesign-cs-55-to-epub-and-kindle.html>.

- **Scrivener:** Scrivener, from Literature & Latte, is a \$45 word processor aimed at providing writers with sophisticated tools for doing the real work of writing. When you finish all your writing in Scrivener, you compile your work into a complete manuscript to share with others in various ways. One compilation method is to create an EPUB.

If you have Scrivener, or if Scrivener sounds like a program that you'd like to try, you can use it to make EPUBs. More details are available at <http://www.literatureandlatte.com/scrivener.php>.

**Tip:** *Take Control of Scrivener* explains many of the organizing and writing features in Scrivener, and it touches on how to compile an EPUB. The Scrivener manual has even more about EPUB compilation.

- **Sigil:** Sigil is an open-source, cross-platform editor designed to create and edit books in the EPUB format. It's a WYSIWYG editor, which means you can format your text as you write and have those styles reflected in the EPUB. Also, unlike Pages, InDesign, and Scrivener, Sigil uses EPUB as its native format, which means that it's easy to make changes without having to export a new file each time.

On the downside, Sigil is a rather mediocre Mac application; it looks and works strangely, and in my limited testing, I've found it to be rather awkward. But it is free, and if you don't have or want to use Pages, it's probably your best bet for creating an EPUB from scratch. Download your copy at <http://code.google.com/p/sigil/>.

**Tip:** Although it's tempting to use Sigil to make small changes in existing EPUB files generated from other sources, be very careful when doing that, and keep your original files separate. Although I believe this bug has been fixed, an earlier version of Sigil automatically generated a new (and erroneous) table of contents from headings in edited documents, rather than simply using the table of contents that was already present.

- **eCub:** eCub is more of an EPUB compiler than an editor like Sigil. You feed it existing text or HTML files, provide appropriate metadata, and it generates an EPUB. eCub also has a simple interface for designing a cover graphic. Like Sigil, eCub is a cross-platform tool, which makes it a little harder to use than a real Mac

application. It's free, and I would recommend it only to someone who has a collection of HTML files (perhaps from an old Web site that uses simple HTML) and wants to turn them into an EPUB. Download a copy of eCub at <http://www.juliansmart.com/ecub>.

- **Jutoh:** Jutoh, created by the same people who made eCub, is another full-fledged EPUB editor along the lines of Sigil. It's neither open-source nor free, but at \$39 it's not a major investment. Again, as a cross-platform application, Jutoh will seem a little awkward on the Mac, but from what I can tell, you could use it to create fairly full-featured EPUBs. It appears to be a bit more capable than Sigil, so if you get started using Sigil to create EPUBs from scratch and run into limitations, it may be worth trying Jutoh. Learn more about Jutoh and download a free demo at <http://www.jutoh.com/>.

### **Create EPUBs with Automator**

If you're using Mac OS X 10.7 Lion, there is a new Automator action—Text to EPUB File—and some associated services that can help you create EPUB files. Using Automator for EPUB creation is more complex than relying on Pages, but it may be better if you have a system that regularly creates files that you'd like to have end up in EPUB format. Plus, the Mac OS X services that you can download may be the fastest possible way to create a simple EPUB from selected files, selected text, or the contents of the Clipboard.

To learn more about using the Text to EPUB File Automator action and download both it and the related services, go to the Mac OS X Automation site at <http://www.macosxautomation.com/lion/epub/>.

### **Convert Other Formats to EPUB**

I almost hate to mention that it's possible to convert from other formats to EPUB because the converters I've found do such a horrible job most of the time that it's almost not worth the effort. That said, if you have a document in a format that one of the converters claims to support, and the document has a sufficiently simple layout, it's worth seeing what will come out the other end.

The online converters I've had some level of success with (meaning, they actually gave me a file that Bookle was able to open, thoroughly malformed though it may have been) include:

- Online-Convert.com  
<http://ebook.online-convert.com/convert-to-epub>
- 2epub.com  
<http://www.2epub.com/>

Although these sites claim to support Word's .doc files, you might get better results if you export to HTML from within Word and then feed the HTML file to a converter.

There's also Calibre (<http://calibre-ebook.com/>), which is a cross-platform, open-source ebook management application that can convert between some ebook formats. Calibre is the antithesis of a Mac application—it's huge (210 MB), ugly as sin (including menu items that are so long that Mac OS X has to truncate some of the text in the middle), and horribly confusing (you have to see it to believe it). Using Calibre makes my teeth hurt, but if you have a few days to play, you might be able to convince it to convert something for you in an acceptable fashion.

# About This Book

Thank you for reading this Take Control book. We hope you find it both useful and enjoyable to read. We welcome your comments at [tc-comments@tidbits.com](mailto:tc-comments@tidbits.com).

---

## Ebook Extras

---

You can [access extras related to this ebook](#) on the Web. Once you're on the ebook's Take Control Extras page, you can:

- Find out about any available new version of the ebook.
- Download various formats, including PDF, EPUB, and—usually—Mobipocket. (Learn about reading this ebook on handheld devices at <http://www.takecontrolbooks.com/device-advice>.)
- Read postings to the ebook's blog. These may include details of Bookle updates, new tips for using Bookle, or other useful information, as well as links to author interviews.
- Add the ebook to your Take Control account (create one if necessary) to be notified by email of important updates to Bookle.

---

## About the Author

---

Adam C. Engst is the publisher of *TidBITS*, one of the oldest and most respected Internet-based newsletters, available on the Web at <http://tidbits.com/> and distributed weekly by email and RSS to many thousands of readers. He has written numerous technical books, including the best-selling *Internet Starter Kit* series, and many magazine articles (thanks to Contributing Editor positions at *MacUser*, *MacWEEK*, and *Macworld*).

Beyond *TidBITS*, Adam's innovations include the creation of the first advertising program to support an Internet publication (in 1992), the first flat-rate accounts for graphical Internet access (in 1993, with Northwest Nexus for *Internet Starter Kit for Macintosh*), and the Take Control ebook series.

Adam's indefatigable support of the Macintosh community and commitment to helping individuals has resulted in numerous awards and recognition at the highest levels. In the annual MDJ Power 25 survey of industry insiders from 2000 through 2006, he ranked in the top five most influential people in the Macintosh industry, and he was named one of *MacDirectory's* top ten visionaries. And how many industry figures can boast of being turned into an action figure?

For comments about this book, contact Adam at [ace@tidbits.com](mailto:ace@tidbits.com). Please send bug reports to us at [bookle-support@stairways.com](mailto:bookle-support@stairways.com).

## Author's Acknowledgments

I'm grateful to Peter Lewis, who was far more game to jump on this project than I had any right to expect. His programming skills and amiable disposition have made the entire experience truly enjoyable.

Thanks are also due to Tonya, who makes far more possible than she realizes. That becomes especially obvious when I stray from my particular roles at Take Control into her domain of expertise with actually writing, editing, and formatting the ebooks.

---

## About the Publisher

---



Publishers Adam and Tonya Engst have been creating Apple-related content since they started the online newsletter *TidBITS*, in 1990. In *TidBITS*, you can find the latest Apple news, plus read reviews, opinions, and more (<http://tidbits.com/>). Adam and Tonya are known in the Apple world as writers, editors, and speakers. They are also parents to Tristan, who thinks ebooks about clipper ships and castles would be cool.

**Production credits:**

- Take Control logo: Jeff Tolbert
- Cover design: Jon Hersh
- Editor: Tonya Engst
- Editor in Chief: Tonya Engst
- Publisher: Adam Engst

*Special thanks to Apple for not releasing an EPUB reader for the Mac alongside iBooks 2 for the iPad and iBooks Author. That would have been a major bummer, coming as it did just as we were finishing up.*

# Copyright and Fine Print

*Take Control of Bookle*

ISBN: 978-1-61542-400-9

Copyright © TidBITS Publishing Inc., 2012. All rights reserved.

TidBITS Publishing Inc.

50 Hickory Road

Ithaca, NY 14850 USA

<http://www.takecontrolbooks.com/>

Take Control electronic books help readers regain a measure of control in an oftentimes out-of-control universe. Take Control ebooks also streamline the publication process so that information about quickly changing technical topics can be published while it's still relevant and accurate.

This electronic book doesn't use copy protection because copy protection makes life harder for everyone. So we ask a favor of our readers. If you want to share your copy of this ebook with a friend, please do so as you would a physical book, meaning that if your friend uses it regularly, he or she should buy a copy. Your support makes it possible for future Take Control ebooks to hit the Internet long before you'd find the same information in a printed book. Plus, if you buy the ebook, you're entitled to any free updates that become available.

Although the author and TidBITS Publishing Inc. have made a reasonable effort to ensure the accuracy of the information herein, they assume no responsibility for errors or omissions. The information in this ebook is distributed "As Is," without warranty of any kind. Neither TidBITS Publishing Inc. nor the author shall be liable to any person or entity for any special, indirect, incidental, or consequential damages, including without limitation lost revenues or lost profits, that may result (or that are alleged to result) from the use of these materials. In other words, use this information at your own risk.

Many of the designations used to distinguish products and services are claimed as trademarks or service marks. Any trademarks, service marks, product names, or named features that appear in this title are assumed to be the property of their respective owners. All product names and services are used in an editorial fashion only, with no intention of infringement of the trademark. No such use, or the use of any trade name, is meant to convey endorsement or other affiliation with this title.

This title is an independent publication and has not been authorized, sponsored, or otherwise approved by Apple Inc. Because of the nature of this title, it uses terms that are trademarks or that are the registered trademarks of Apple Inc.; to view a complete list of the trademarks and of the registered trademarks of Apple Inc., you can visit <http://www.apple.com/legal/trademark/appletmlist.html>.

# Featured Titles

Click any book title below or [visit our Web catalog](#) to add more ebooks to your Take Control collection!

*Take Control of iCloud* (Joe Kissell): Understand the many features, get set up properly, and enjoy iCloud!

*Take Control of iTunes 10: The FAQ* (Kirk McElhearn): This FAQ-style ebook helps you wrap iTunes around your little finger and enjoy your media more.

*Take Control of Making Music with GarageBand '11* (Jeff Tolbert): Combine your creativity with GarageBand's editing and mixing techniques to compose tunes that please the ear!

*Take Control of PDFpen 5* (Michael E. Cohen): Learn to create, edit, and manipulate PDFs with Smile's PDFpen 5!

*Take Control of Scrivener 2* (Kirk McElhearn): Write your screenplay, novel, or dissertation with the author-focussed features in Scrivener!

*Take Control of Safari 5* (Sharon Zardetto): Make the most of Apple's Safari, a Mac Web browser with many hidden and under-appreciated talents!

*Take Control of Spotlight for Finding Anything on Your Mac* (Sharon Zardetto): Whether by mouse or menu, or by typing a complex query, you'll learn how to find your files, contacts, images, and much more.

*Take Control of Using Lion* (Matt Neuburg): Learn to use 10.7 Lion effectively, whether you embrace all of Lion's new features or strike a balance between old and new.

*Take Control of Your iPad* (Tonya Engst): Optimize your iPad experience—make important customizations, sync media and data, and get tips on making the most of core iPad apps.

*Take Control of Your Paperless Office* (Joe Kissell): With your Mac, scanner, and this ebook in hand, you'll finally clear the chaos of an office overflowing with paper.