Desktop Poet

Version 1.0

User Guide for Macintosh

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Welcome

Desktop Poet is "fridge poetry" for the desktop of your Macintosh.

Desktop Poet presents you with hundreds of word tiles on your desktop, and by forming the words into sentences or phrases, gives you the ability to compose imaginative prose or to formulate specific brainstorming ideas.

Make your own word lists with any topic (Desktop Poet comes with word lists for sports, classic movie stars, celebrities, scientific terms, and other such things). Export your poems and ideas as a JPEG, TIFF or HTML and send them to your family, friends, and colleagues.

Desktop Poet can display a dozen different background images, courtesy of The3dStudio.com; or supply your own. Everything else is configurable too: the font, the layout, colors, tile styles...everything.

Easily create poems or expand on your free flowing thought process, Desktop Poet visually helps the poet or brainstormer in you with clearer thinking, more imaginative projects, and better organized writing.

Who needs Desktop Poet?

- Poets
- Writers
- Playwrights
- Screenwriters
- Authors
- Educators
- Students
- Brainstormers
- Doodlers

Hardware and Software Requirements

To use Desktop Poet you need:

- Two MB (megabytes) of memory (RAM), 4 MB free hard disk space
- Mac OS X 10.2 or above

Technical Support

If you have a question about using Desktop Poet, try finding the answers you need in this document or in the Desktop Poet online help. Alternatively, try the FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) page on our web site. View it at: **http://www.marinersoftware.com**/.

If you still can't find the information you need, contact Mariner Software by phone, fax, or email.
Email: support@marinersoftware.com
Phone: (612) 529–3770; Voice support, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. Eastern Standard Time
Fax: (612) 529–3775

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        401 N. 3rd Street #665
        Minneapolis, MN 55401
        USA

For updates, tips and tricks, information about other Mariner products, user group discount information, and articles for user group newsletter publication, visit our World Wide Web site at: **http://www.marinersoftware.com**

Online Help

Desktop Poet supports Hot Help in OSX and is PDF-based. It can be found under the Help menu in Desktop Poet titled Desktop Poet Help.

Notes

Before using Desktop Poet, you should have a basic knowledge of Mac OS X. You should understand pointing, clicking, double-clicking, dragging, and how to choose menu commands. You should also know how to operate dialog boxes, resize windows, and use the Clipboard. If you aren't familiar with these or other basic Macintosh operations or terminology, refer to the Macintosh® documentation included with your computer.

Fig.1 The Desktop Poet Menu Bar

Menu Bar Items

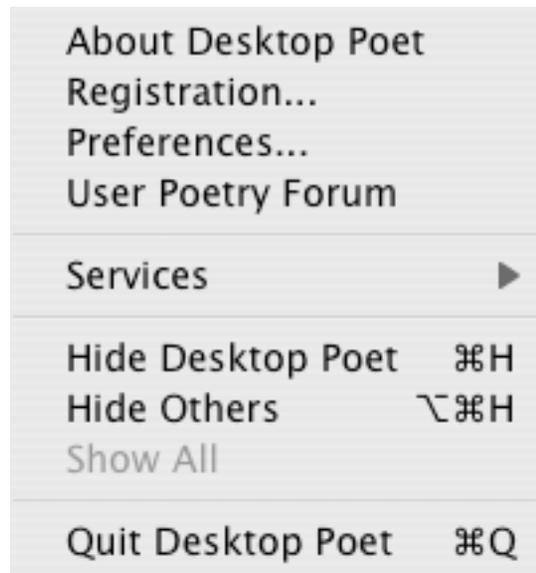*Desktop Poet, Tiles, Edit , Format, Window , Help*

Fig. 2 Desktop Poet Menu

Desktop Poet Menu

Desktop Poet Menu

- **About Desktop Poet** – Shows Desktop Poet's about box.

- **Registration** – Allows the user to either Register (purchase) Desktop Poet or run as a full-functioning trial copy for a limited amount of days.

- **Preferences** – This functions allows the user to personally customize their copy of Desktop Poet. Default Tile Settings, Drag Snapping, Tile Level, Tile Area, Virtual Fridge, and Tile & Fridge Opacity are the preferences available for customizing.

- **User Poetry Forum** – The function links the user to the User Poetry Forum page on the Mariner Software web site where customers can contribute their own poetry for posting. Direct all requests for submissions to Logan Ryan at lryan@marinersoftware.com.

- **Services** – The items in the Services menu are provided by other applications you have installed. When you select something that a Service can act on, the corresponding Services menu item is available.

- **Hide Desktop Poet** – Hides Desktop Poet and its window.

- **Hide Others** – Hides the windows of all other open applications.

- **Show All** – Shows every application's window previously hidden.

- **Quit Desktop Poet** – Quits the Desktop Poet application.

Tiles Menu

Tiles Menu

- **New Word Tile** – Create a new word tile to add to the active word list.

- **New Image Tile** – Choose an image from your hard drive to add to the active word list.

- **Set Word List** – Brings up a custom dialog box that shows only the word list files that Desktop Poet recognizes and have been imported into the application. Word lists can be found in the following location on your hard drive ~/Library/Desktop Poet folder.

- **Merge Word List** – A custom dialog box appears showing the word list files Desktop Poet recognizes. Selecting a word list from this dialog merges that word list with the active word list. Word lists are found on your hard drive here: ~/Library/Desktop Poet folder.

- **Import Word List** – A standard dialog box appears in which you can locate word lists on your hard drive and import them into Desktop Poet.

- **Export Word List** – A standard dialog box appears allowing you choose what to name the file you will be exporting, along with the location of where you will be saving the file.

- **Download Word Lists** –Takes you to a web page to download word lists. Control-click on the desired list. A menu appears allowing you to download the file to disk, rather than viewing the file in your web browser (which might be your browser's default behavior).
See also "Import Word List", "Set Word List" and "Merge Word List" commands.

Tiles Menu

- **Export Selection as JPEG** – Saves your active word list or selected tiles as a JPEG.

- **Export Selection as TIFF** – Saves your active word list or selected tiles as a TIFF.

- **Export Selection as HTML** – Saves your active word list or selected word tiles as a HTML.

- **Shuffle Tiles** – Shuffles the tiles on your desktop or virtual fridge.

- **Resnap Selected Tiles** – "Snaps" the selected tiles into a group.

New Word Tile	⌘N
New Image Tile	⇧⌘N
Set Word List...	
Merge Word List...	
Import Word List...	
Export Word List...	
Download Word Lists...	
Export Selection As JPEG...	
Export Selection As TIFF...	
Export Selection As HTML...	
Shuffle Tiles	
Resnap Selected Tiles	⌘R
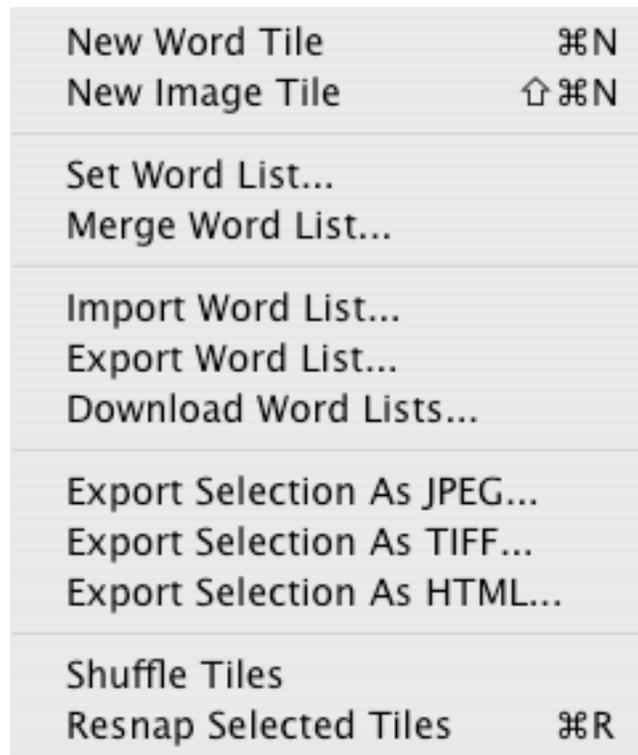
Fig. 3 Tiles Menu

Edit Menu

•**Cut** – Standard editing commands apply in Desktop Poet.

•**Copy** – Standard editing commands apply in Desktop Poet.

•**Copy Image** – Same function as Copy only using an image.

•**Paste** – Standard editing commands apply in Desktop Poet.

•**Delete** – Deletes a word tile from an active word list.

Cut	⌘X
Copy	⌘C
Copy Image	⇧⌘C
Paste	⌘V
Delete	
Duplicate	⌘D
Select All	⌘A
Deselect All	⇧⌘A
Invert Selection	
Blink Selection	
Find...	⌘F
Find Exact...	⇧⌘F
Define Tiles	
Match Tiles	

Fig. 4 Edit Menu

Edit Menu

•**Duplicate** – Duplicates a word tile from an active word list.

•**Select All** – Selects all the word tiles in an active word list.

•**Deselect All** – Deselects all the word tiles in an active word list.

•**Invert Selection** – Inverts the previous selection in an active word list.

•**Blink Selection** – Blinks the selected word tile(s) for easier viewing.

•**Find** – Searches text in the active word list. The Find panel will preform a prefix match.

•**Find Exact** – Searches for exact text in the active word list.

•**Define Tiles** – Links you to dictionary.com and shows the highlighted word(s) definition.

•**Match Tiles** – Matches and highlights duplicate word tiles in the active word list.

•**Special Characters** – Shows a system palette which allows you to insert special characters such as mathematical symbols, graphical dingbats and characters from non-Roman script systems.

Format Menu

•Color – Sets the color of selected word tile(s).

•Style – Sets the style of selected word tile(s).

•Font – Sets the Font of selected word tile(s).

•Face – Sets the Face of selected word tile(s).

•Size – Sets the size of selected word tile(s).

Color	▶
Style	▶
Font	▶
Face	▶
Size	▶

Fig. 5 Format Menu

Window Menu

• **Minimize** – Sends the current active window to the Dock.

• **Close Window** – Closes the Desktop Poet active word list.

• **Bring All To Front** – If windows from other applications are obscuring Desktop Poet's windows, choosing this command brings all Desktop Poet windows to the front.

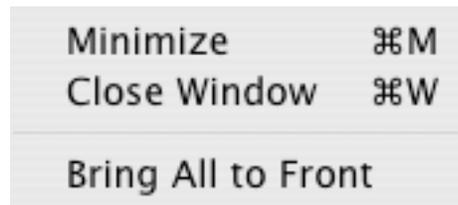| Minimize	⌘M
Close Window	⌘W
Bring All to Front	

Fig. 6 Window Menu

Help Menu

• Desktop Poet Help – Launches the Desktop Poet online manual in PDF format.

• ReadMe – Opens the release notes for Desktop Poet.

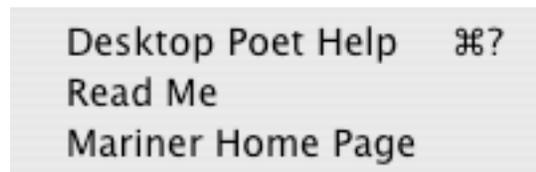• Mariner Home Page – Links you back to the Mariner Software web site.

Desktop Poet Help	⌘?
Read Me	
Mariner Home Page	

Fig. 7 Help Menu

Where are the tiles like "ed", "ing" and "an"?

This is the chief difference between Desktop Poet and the poetry game you may have on your refrigerator. Desktop Poet takes advantage of the fact that it is on a computer to both increase the available vocabulary and decrease the number of tiles. It does this by allowing a single tile to have more than one word on it. The words on a tile should all be related to each other, such that it makes sense to place them together. For example, "run", "runs", "running", "ran" and "runner" are on a single tile. This means that the "ending" tiles like "ed" and "ing" are not needed in Desktop Poet; just choose the word form you want.

How do I choose the different forms of word tiles?

This is as easy as a control-click on the tile (or, if you have a two-button mouse, a right-click). At the top of the menu shown, before the other contextual menu commands, will be the various word forms that exist for that tile. Choose the form you want, and the tile will change. You can also rotate through word forms by selecting a tile and pressing the "escape" key. Sometimes the tiles will be related semantically, not syntactically; one tile might have the names of the twelve months of the year, for example. Until you get familiar with the tile's layout, the easiest way to locate a word is to select "Find" and enter the applicable word. Find "runner", for example, and the "run" tile will be selected. You can also use Desktop Poet's type-select feature by typing "is" (for example); the "be" tile will be selected.

What are the different ways to select tiles?

Desktop Poet's selection works much like selecting icons on the desktop in the Finder; you can use the mouse (with modifier keys if desired), you can type a word to select tiles with that word, or you can use the Find panel to search for the tile you want to select.

Tiles

Double-clicking on tiles

Drag selecting tiles

Typing to find a tile

Using the find panel

To select a tile, just click on the tile you want to select. You can hold down the shift key to select additional tiles you click on; hold down the command key to toggle a clicked tile between being selected and deselected.

Double-click on a tile to select a "cascade" of tiles that are all sufficiently close to each other; this is a quick way to select an entire completed poem, for example. You can shift-double-click and command double-click to augment the current selection by adding or toggling a cascade of tiles.

Dragging a selection rectangle in the virtual fridge works just as it does in the Finder, and shift and command will modify the way that works. If you aren't using the virtual fridge, you can begin a drag-select from any tile by holding down the option key, but you can't start a drag-select from the space between tiles, since without the virtual fridge that click goes to whatever application is behind Desktop Poet. (If Desktop Poet is not the active application, however, the option-click will cause all applications other than Desktop Poet to hide; this behavior is built into OS X and cannot be disabled as far as we can tell, unfortunately.)

To select by typing, just start typing, whatever you type is matched against the contents of the tiles (both the visible word form, and any alternate word forms on the tiles). If there are tiles that match exactly (you type "run" and the tile has "run"), all tiles with exact matches will be selected. If there are no exact matches, then it will match prefixes (you type "ze" and the tiles has "zebra"); if there are 10 or fewer tiles that have prefix matches, they will all be selected, if there are more than 10, only one matching tile will be selected.

Selection with the Find panel is exactly as you would expect; select the Find menu item, type some text, hit OK, and the tiles that match are selected. The Find panel does a prefix match; if you want an exact match, choose Find Exact instead.

What's In This Chapter?

How to edit, add, and create word lists

What is a word list?

Word lists are the words you see on the tiles. Some word lists are small and are designed to be merged into a larger, general vocabulary to provide special-interest terms related to things like sports or science. Other word lists are large and are designed to be used as a base vocabulary.

Where can I get more?

You can download word lists, email them to family and friends, or post them on your web page. Within Desktop Poet, you can: replace your current set of tiles with new tiles based on a word list of your choice, or you can merge in a word list, creating new tiles for the words in the word list while keeping your current tile set. Create word lists in Desktop Poet by exporting the set of words you are currently using. You can create or modify word lists in a word processor (Mariner Write, for example).

Tracking word lists

Choosing "Set Word List" or "Merge Word List" menu items makes a dialog appear showing only the word list files that Desktop Poet recognizes. Desktop Poet recognizes word lists located in your ~/Library/Desktop Poet folder. Import Word lists (lists you download, receive in email, etc.;) using the "Import Word List" menu command (double-clicking the word list file works too). This copies the word list to ~/Library/Desktop Poet. Desktop Poet doesn't show the word list file names when you set or merge them; it presents you with a more readable title and the number of words in the list. Desktop Poet shows you content like the language of the word list, a longer explanation of the contents, and other information.

Word Lists

Making your own word lists.

Example Word List

Making your own word lists?
Making your own word lists is simple. All you need is a word processor that works with plain text files (Mariner Write works well). *Suggestion: You might want to work from an existing word list, so you automatically get the basic structure of the file.*

A typical word list looks like this:

```
// This is a word list for Desktop Poet.
@title Music
@longtitle These are a few of my favorite people
@language English
@dictionary http://www.marinersoftware.com/php/search2.php3?f=artist&q=%@`=Go
@author Logan Ryan
@version 1
@copyright Copyright (C) 2004 Mariner Software
@words
"Irwin Fletcher" Fletcher
"Raymond Stantz" Stantz
"Mandy Pepperidge" Pepperidge
"Jeff Spicoli" Spicoli
"Debbie Thompson" Thompson
"Ted Logan" Logan
"Reggie Hammond" Hammond
"Tony D'Annunzio" D'Annunzio
"Chet Donnelly" Donnelly
@end
```

The "//" starts a comment at the top of the file, which similarly lasts until the end of the line. You can put // comments anywhere you want (but only as a full line of content, not as the end of a line with other content).

Word Lists

Tags in Word lists

@dictionary

@longtitle

@author

@language

@version

@copyright

The **@dictionary** tag tells Desktop Poet where to look up words in this word list when asked to define them; since these are all musicians, the URL is for a music site. "**%@**" near the end of the URL is where the word to be defined gets plugged in, so if Desktop Poet is asked to define "Jeff Spicoli", it generates this URL: *http://www.marinersoftware.com/php/search2.php3?f=artist&q=Jeff+Spicoli '=Go.*

@longtitle, **@author**, and **@language** tags give information that Desktop Poet shows to help you choose a word list.

The **@version** tag is not currently used, but will probably be used by a future version of Desktop Poet to facilitate automatic updating of a user's word lists; it should start at 1 and be incremented by one each time you publish a new revision of your word list.

The **@copyright** tag provides a standard place for a copyright notice; this text may be displayed in future versions of Desktop Poet**@author** tag is the place to put your name so you get the credit for creating the wordlist.

Between the **@words** tag and the **@end** tag are the words. Each tile is one line; multiple word forms for a single tile are listed one after another on the same line. The line *"'Chet Donnelly" Donnelly'* makes one tile with two word forms: "Chet Donnelly" and "Donnelly". The quotes around "Chet Donnelly" indicate that the space is part of the "word", not a divider between two different words.

A number i.e."**2**" at the end of a line makes two identical Chet Donnelly tiles. If a number is absent, one tile is created. If you want to include a quote mark (**"**) in a word, you need to preface it with a backslash (**"**) so Desktop Poet doesn't take it as establishing a quoted string. If you want to include a backslash, you need to quote it in the same manner (\\).

Word Lists

Examples

Below are some examples of a word list. The column on the left is the string as it would be written in the word list file; the column on the right is what the resulting tile will look like.

foo	foo
"foo"	foo
foo bar	foo (bar is taken as the second word form)
"foo bar"	foo bar
"foo \"bar\""	foo "bar"
foo\\bar	foo\bar
foo\ bar	foo bar (the backslash quotes the space as a literal character)
foo 2	foo (two tiles that each say foo)
foo "2"	foo (2 is the second word form on the tile, since it was quoted)
foo2	foo2 (numbers are not taken as a count unless they are separate)
foo\ 2	foo 2 (the backslash quoted the space, continuing the word)

What's In This Chapter?

This chapter details how to use and customize the Virtual Fridge.

What is the Virtual Fridge?

Desktop Poet lets you choose whether to keep your tiles inside a containing environment called the virtual fridge, or "loose" on your desktop. Which you choose is mostly a matter of taste; if you prefer to see your tiles on a coherent background, choose to use the virtual fridge. If you find that that interferes with seeing your work, and you'd prefer that Desktop Poet coexist more transparently with your other applications, you may choose not to use the virtual fridge. (There is also a transparency setting in Desktop Poet's preferences that you may find relevant to this choice.) The only side effect of your choice is on drag-selection; without a virtual fridge, you can't click in the background to start a drag-selection of tiles, since your click goes through to whatever application owns the area you clicked on. To drag-select without the virtual fridge, hold down the option key as you click in a tile. Be aware, however, that if Desktop Poet is not the active application, OS X will take the option-click as meaning "hide all other applications", so you will want to be sure Desktop Poet is active before doing a drag-select in this way. One of the most customizable features of the virtual fridge is the various background textures it can display below your tiles. These textures are generously provided by www.The3dStudio.com; you can visit their website for many more free textures that you can download. Put your downloaded texture images in ~/Library/Desktop Poet. Desktop Poet adds the textures to the list available in the Preferences panel, so you can use them in your virtual fridge.

What's In This Chapter?

This chapter details the keyboard controls in Desktop Poet

How can I control Desktop Poet with keyboard commands?

•**Space** Blinks the current selection, just like selecting the **Blink Selection** menu item.

•**Escape** Shows the next word form on the selected tile or tiles.

•**Tab** Selects all tiles identical to the selected tiles, just like the **Match Selection** menu item.

•**Delete** and **Backspace** deletes the currently selected tiles, just like the **Delete** menu item.

Use the following keyboard shortcuts when dialogs display:

•**return** or **enter** to press the **OK** button.
•Command–period (⌘.)or **Escape** (**esc**)to press the **Cancel** button

What's In This Chapter?

This chapter shows you how to share your poems with others as well as restoring your work.

How can I share my poems with others?

Desktop Poet makes it easy to export your poems to formats that can be shared over email or the web. There are three different ways to share your poems, here's how:

1. Select the tiles the poem is composed of (double-clicking to do a cascade-select), and then choose an export option. Under the Tiles menu, choose to export the selection as a JPEG, TIFF image or an HTML page; these choices will save the exported poem to a file.

2. Copy the selected poem to the clipboard as text or as an image; these choices will place the poem on the clipboard, but will not save a file to disk.

3. Choose an Mac OS X service from the Services menu, such as Mail.app's "Mail Text" service that creates a new email message with the text from your poem.

How can all the users on this computer see the same poems?

If you want a single "poetry space" shared among the users of your computer — you can do this by linking Desktop Poet's tile record files.

NOTE: You probably don't want to attempt this unless you are comfortable with your Administrator privileges and using Terminal and Unix.

1. quit Desktop Poet so the files aren't being actively used.

2. Choose a "master" user that other users will link to, and delete the tile record files for all of the users but the master user (the tile record files are located at ~/Library/Preferences/Desktop PoetTiles for each user of Desktop Poet).

3. Use "ln -s" to create soft links to the master account's tile record in all of the other user accounts. Set up properly, Desktop Poet now shares the tile record among the users of the computer.

You probably want all the users to keep their tiles in the same screen area so that they fit properly for all users.

Can I save the way Desktop Poet is now and restore it later?

Yes. Suppose you want to look at different word lists and experiment, but you ultimately want to come back to the way you have Desktop Poet set up right now, down to the position of every tile on your virtual fridge. This is quite simple to do, although it isn't supported from within Desktop Poet's user interface (for reasons of limiting the complexity of the app). Just follow these steps to save your current state:

1. Quit Desktop Poet.
2. Copy the file ~/Library/Preferences/Desktop PoetTiles somewhere else; this is your backup file.

How do I restore my previous configuration?

Here is how to restore a previous configuration:

1. Quit Desktop Poet
2. In the Finder, put your backup file back where it came from (making sure to give it the correct file name of "Desktop PoetTiles" again).

Hint: You might keep a copy of the backup file so you can try again if this doesn't succeed for some reason.

You can make as many backups of the Desktop PoetTiles file as you want.

What's In This Chapter?

License Agreement

Fine Print lawyer-type stuff.

Good bedtime reading.

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