

My First Encounter

It started innocently enough. Following an interesting online link, I was soon embroiled in a strange new language, assumptions, misunderstandings, misperceptions, and an adventure into the unknown, all under the code name "Applejack."

Did I get your attention? Good, because this is one of those areas where guru-level computer users might not realize how scary a trip to "Single User Mode" can be for the rest of us. Single user mode... say, what? Yes, that was my initial reaction too. Until this experience, I thought single user mode meant I was the only user of my computer.

This is a shot of what's in store with Single User Mode:

```
Debug driver registered: AppleUSBHCI
FireWire (OHCI) Lucent ID 5811 PCI now active, GUID 0017f2
Got boot device = IOService:/AppleACPIPlatformExpert/PCI00
/ST910021AS Media/IOGUIDPartitionScheme/Custom02
BSD root: disk0s2, major 14, minor 2
Load of /sbin/launchd, errno 88, trying /sbin/mach_init
Load of /sbin/launchd failed, errno 88
Extension "com.apple.driver.AppleUSBTCKeyboard" has no ker
Extension "com.apple.driver.AppleUSBTCKeyEventDriver" has
CSRHIDTransitionDriver::probe: -v
CSRHIDTransitionDriver::start before command
CSRHIDTransitionDriver::stop
IOBluetoothHCIController::start Idle Timer Stopped
```

Don't panic yet, I'll tell you when.

If you are comfortable with the terms "Terminal" and "Single User Mode," this article is probably not for you. I found plenty of information online about using Applejack that was geared towards someone comfortable with that black and white screen, but very little that would lower the panic level of those less "techie," and lots of information to increase it. I am writing about my learning experience with Applejack, in hopes of being able to lessen the anxiety level of others about to delve into the workings of this very useful little repair script.

After describing my experience — a very positive one, by the way — I will explain step-by-step how to install & use Applejack, how to uninstall it if you want to do so, and give some examples of the emails that lead me here; but first, let me tell you what it is.

Barry Austern explains that "AppleJack's disk repair is simply fsck incorporated into the script that is AppleJack." Hmm, Barry knows a lot about computers, but here's what you really need to know: Applejack is a tool (script) that can be used when odd things are happening on your computer. When things slow to a crawl, when applications keep quitting unexpectedly, when that drop-down font menu takes forever and a day to show up —yes, AppleWorks, I'm talking about you— when using Repair Permissions from within Apple's Disk Utility doesn't fix things, it's time to call in Applejack. DiskWarrior and TechTool Pro are reliable old standbys I'm told, but Applejack is free.

This article is divided into 7 sections

1. The intro that you just read
2. My experience while running Applejack for the first time (the shortest section of all)
3. How to install and uninstall AppleJack
4. Instructions for actually running Applejack, written in three different ways. They are all derived from the original instructions by Terry Graham. Choose the one you're most comfortable with:
 - A basic step by step list, no extra notes here
 - A second step by step list (this is the one I used, along with my interjected notes about the process)
 - A third step by step list, also written by Terry Graham, in response to BC's difficulties, with
very explicit instructions

At this point, you'll have all the information needed to run Applejack, & can stop reading. If you continue, you'll find...

5. A glossary of terms: the "official" definitions, and for some terms, additional laymen's notes
6. And finally, a section that includes edited versions of the emails sent and received as other people try to understand this process

CAUTION #1: There are only a few moves in using Applejack, and not much room for slip-ups, but if you are a VERY NEW computer user, do not go near Applejack. Ask someone more familiar with computers for help. If you want to use Applejack, check to be sure the version you download is compatible with the computer system you have. Once again, if this is COMPLETELY foreign territory to you, DO NOT DOWNLOAD AND INSTALL Applejack. A basic comfort level with your computer is necessary. If you follow these instructions carefully, all should be fine, but if you are a computer novice, it's better to get help.

CAUTION #2: There are different versions of Applejack for different operating systems, so be sure you're using the correct version for your system. More information is available at <http://applejack.sourceforge.net>.

Before running Applejack, I ran an extra Time Machine backup, then I disconnected my macbook from the Bookendz dock, and thus from ALL and any peripherals. I don't know if this was a good thing, or necessary, or not, but it's what I did. Being very nervous about this, I was covering all the bases.

This is my computer system: Intel macbook, OS X 10.5.6, connected to a Bookendz docking station that in turn is connected to 2 printers: Epson C88, & Brother MFC665CW, Epson scanner, external Apple keyboard, 3 external hard drives, ipod photo, Palm T3, and external DVD drive, and an APC UPS surge protector. Just listing all those things makes me tired....

I downloaded Applejack at <http://Applejack.sourceforge.net/> and installed it by double clicking the disk image. The installation happened so fast that I didn't think anything had happened at all, so I did it again. (Not the best thing to do, but no harm done in this case. Phew!) Still not sure it was installed, I looked in my applications folder, nothing.... Then I tried a Spotlight search, nothing.... Hmm.... This is where I finally realized I wasn't dealing with an APPLICATION, and Spotlight doesn't find scripts. I dug around in all sorts of folders looking for that puppy, but never did locate the actual

script. I've since learned that it is "hidden." Of course, by then, I'd figured that out myself!

Finally decided to go for it and trust to Terry Graham's instructions.

I shut down my computer.

I held down the COMMAND & **S** keys while I pushed the power button, then **waited** for the screen to fill with white text on a black background. Aaagh! Panic... what is all that sssssssssssssssssssssssssssssssssssssssssssssssssssssss stuff? It filled 2 full rows before I realized I should let go of the keys. Stop laughing you techies! I pause, catch my breath and LOOK at the screen again. OK, I see the line referred to in the next instruction:

"Do you want to run Applejack?"

I don't see a blinking cursor, how do I get rid of the "s"s? I tried a few times to enter a cursor "thingy" so I could get rid of them. Finally, in desperation, I just hit the delete key, and "what to my wondering eyes should appear," it backspaced over one of the s's. Relief.... I got rid of the rest of them, hoping all the while that I didn't go too far.... Interesting, I can't backspace any further! Now I'm thinking **I can do this** — yep, this is going to be fine.

I see what I assume is the "Prompt" (harking back to seeing my Mom's old DOS days). I, figuratively cross my fingers, because I am afraid that I may already have messed something up, what with all those "s"s, but I gamely type in "Applejack" hoping that I wasn't supposed to type in the quotes, and using all lower case. Does it matter?

I don't know, but everything seems to be showing up in lower case, so that's what I go with. Then I hit RETURN as directed.

OK, I do see on the screen where they recommend running all the repairs in sequence, so I type 'a' as advised, hit return, and send up a prayer.

Instructions say, "Then just sit back and let it run." Oh My Gosh! What is all this stuff? Something failed, something couldn't be found, Oh My Gosh, did I really mess up? OK, Terry said wait, so I wait; oh sheesh, am I nervous!

Joy, oh joy! I see the prompt asking if I want to restart and showing me that I should type `r` and hit RETURN — remembering to never type in the quotation marks seen in directions.

My computer restarted! Wow! That was fast, launched Dreamweaver CS4 and it started in a fraction of the time it used to. Started Photoshop Elements 6, and except for seeing the default start-up screen, it was faster too, and seemed to be fine. Oops, it was recommended that I shut down and re-boot again; better do that.

Here's where I got another surprise. My applications actually put themselves away. I didn't have to "Force Quit," as I have been doing. I am one happy camper!

I'm thrilled with the results of running Applejack! I hadn't even realized that I was having certain "issues." I had been experiencing applications unexpectedly quitting, fonts taking forever to show up in Appleworks, and it seemed as if it took an awfully long time to start up my Mac, but I always attributed these things to the "nature of the beast."

Now that all those maladies are no more, I'm ecstatic! And all the histrionics aside, it was EASY — nerve wracking, but it was really quite simple. Of course, part of what made it work for me is that when I was in doubt about what was happening, it took me so long to decide that I should DO something about it, that I was by default, bumped to the next step in the process. Sometimes, indecision works for you.

CAUTION 3: If you are a user who trembles in fright at the prospect of getting technically involved with your computer, or if you've discovered that you are prone to making impulsive moves or overestimating your skills as evidenced by past mishaps, then perhaps a data backup, before installing and running Applejack, just for safe measure, is advisable.

Installing Applejack

After downloading, <http://applejack.sourceforge.net/>, depending on how your computer is set to handle downloaded files, you'll either find the already expanded disk image of Applejack, version 1.5 on your desktop, or you will find AppleJack-1.5.dmg in the Downloads Folder location established in your browser preferences, waiting to be expanded. Double click on that .dmg (disk Image) file to expand it onto your desktop.

Double click on that disk image after it appears on your desktop, and it will open a window containing an icon that looks like an open box, labeled Distribution.mpkg along with a ReadMe file. I'm usually a big fan of ReadMe files, but DO NOT READ THIS; it might scare you into a stand-still. Just install AppleJack by double clicking on the AppleJack icon. It takes seconds to install.

I'm not alone in my reaction to the Applejack Read Me file. Gene van Troyer wrote, "I think the Applejack Read Me is confusing, a typical problem with explanations written by programmers who communicate well with others of like mind, but poorly with us ordinary humans. The Read Me author states that Applejack is /"*Designed to be run only in single user mode*,"/ and then it goes on to describe in USAGE a series of steps for using it in Terminal. We average users would be best to consider this Read-Me, "no man's land" for some time to come.

If you've already looked at that Read Me file, I'm telling you now, you are not working in Terminal. (Good thing, because even the name is scary.)

Caution #4: These uninstall instructions are just so you know that it IS possible to uninstall AppleJack.

— Uninstalling Applejack —

If you are running version 1.4.3 or later of Applejack, you can uninstall by rebooting in Single User Mode and entering the command "applejack uninstall" (no quotes).

— I recommend that you don't bother! —

AppleJack will DO NOTHING unless you start up in Single User Mode and run it. Think of the AppleJack script as your old pair of size 6 jeans, or that Pilates band you bought 3 years ago. They are tucked away, unseen. They are very small so they take up almost no room at all. They do no harm, and you don't have to use them. But, if you ever need them, there they are.

The three versions of step-by-step instructions begin here.

THE FIRST

Basic step by step list for using Applejack, no extra notes here

- Step 1. Shut down your computer.
- Step 2. Start up while holding COMMAND S
- Step 3. Wait for the screen to fill with white text on a black background.
- Step 4. At the bottom you'll see, "Do you want to run Applejack?"
Type the word `applejack` and hit RETURN
- Step 5. Type the letter `a` and hit RETURN
- Step 6. Sit back and let it run.
- Step 7. When you see the prompt text asking if you want to restart,
type the letter `r` and hit RETURN.
- . . . When this start up is completed
- Step 8. Shut down the computer again.
- Step 9. Final step is to start up one more time.

—End of the basic instruction, that's really all there is to it.—

THE SECOND VERSION OF STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS BEGINS HERE

(Yes, the steps are identical to the instruction above, but in this case I have included notes that relate to my experience as I ran Applejack for the first time)

— Steps are labeled Step 1 through Step 9, with comments labeled "NOTE" —

After having installed Applejack, here's all you have to do to run the Applejack script.

- Step 1. Shut down your computer.
NOTE: do not choose Restart; do a full Shut Down.
- Step 2. Boot holding COMMAND S
NOTE: Hold down the command (apple) key along with the s key, then push the power button on your keyboard.
This is what is known as starting or *booting up*, in "Single user mode."
As soon as the computer starts up, let go of the command and s keys.
- Step 3. Wait for the screen to fill with white text on a black background.
NOTE: Really, WAIT. This may be quick, or it may take a bit of time. If you're seeing this: `ssssssssssssssss` at the bottom of the screen, you held the keys just a bit too long. Once you let go of those keys, hit the delete key until you've removed all the `ssssssssssssss` that you see. You will not see a blinking cursor that you are used to seeing. Just delete until you come to the words at the very bottom of your screen, similar to this: `localhost:/ root #`
This bottom line is called the PROMPT.

NOTE: Below is a snapshot of my screen when started in Single User Mode correctly. You can easily see the big fat white "prompt," and the word applejack.

```
BSM auditing present
rooting via boot-uid from /chosen: 64963EF2-78F2-3394-8A53-316486E82
Waiting on <dict ID="8"><key>IOProviderClass</key><string ID="1">IORe
ot-uid-media</string></dict>
AppleYukon2: 532111ab.88888888 sk98osx_dnet - CheckDictionaryEntry fa
FireWire (OHCI) Lucent ID 5811 built-in now active. GUID 8819e3fffe2b
Got boot device = IOService:/AppleACPIPlatformExpert/PCI8000/AppleACP
Driver/IOAHCIBlockStorageDevice/IOBlockStorageDriver/ST9168823AS Med
BSD root: disk0s2, major 14, minor 2
[Bluetooth::CSRHIDTransition] Single User - waiting WindowServer
Singleuser boot -- fsck not done
Root device is mounted read-only

If you want to make modifications to files:
    /sbin/fsck -fy
    /sbin/mount -uw /

If you wish to boot the system:
    exit

For troubleshooting assistance, just type 'applejack' at the prompt
:/ root# AppleIntelCPUPowerManagement: Initialization complete
█
```

Step 4. At the very bottom you see, "Just type 'applejack' at the prompt"
Type `applejack` (it will type in after the fat white rectangle), and hit RETURN

NOTE: Use lower case, no quotes, just type `applejack` and hit the keyboard RETURN key

Next you'll see some text; some of which recommends you run all the repairs in sequence. They also say a lot of other stuff that you can safely ignore. Much of the information may instill terror into the hearts of the uninitiated. It is not meant to do so, it's just way more information than you need right now.

ALWAYS wait until the screen stops filling up with text before trying to do anything.

At the very bottom of the screen is the part that needs to be read, relative to the next step. The letters that they give to choose from and to be typed in are underlined or highlighted in the text. This whole experience is rather DOS-like, if you have any experience of those days. (Here is an example of this screen)

```
-----
Enter the associated number or letter to choose your maintenance task.
It is strongly recommended you do them in the order listed!

[a] auto pilot. Script will do all tasks sequentially.

[1] repair disks
[2] repair permissions
[3] cleanup cache files
[4] validate preference files
[5] remove swap files

[q] : Just quit, thank you very much.

Your choice: █
```

Step 5. Type the letter 'a' and hit RETURN (continue to repeat as per 1st instructions)

NOTE: Type in a particular chosen function's representative letter as suggested on screen; in this case, type the letter 'a' and hit RETURN

Step 6. Then sit back and let it run.

NOTE: And you thought things were scary before? I would recommend not watching this screen. It fills up with mysterious technicalities about what it's doing and checking, and stating things like files that can't be found, or something failed, along with enormous amounts of code that mean absolutely nothing unless you are a computer programmer. If you have a compulsion to watch — it does take awhile depending on how much is being fixed — DO NOT TOUCH YOUR KEYBOARD and do not panic, but let it run its course. Only when it STOPS filling the screen, do you want to type anything in, or click on any keys. This can take some time, DO NOTHING until you see text at the very bottom of the screen asking if you want to restart. Then, and only then, go to step 7.

Step 7. When you see the prompt text asking if you want to restart, type the letter r and hit RETURN.

NOTE: You also are presented with the option of shutting down and other options as well. Type the letter r and then hit the RETURN key. Terry states "Your first restart may be slow." Mine was not slow (others report slowness) but be forewarned that you may need to be patient. It may take longer ... possibly relative to just how disorganized things were on your system, but probably because your computer needs time to reorient itself to the changes.
... When start up is completed

Step 8. Shut down the computer again.

Step 9. Final step is to start up one more time

FINAL NOTE: I actually forgot about the second start up, and checked some of my applications after the first restart. But it turns out that once the computer has booted up the new operational efficiency can be enjoyed — the "slow" aspect was only relative to the BOOT not the ultimate operating speed — I had misunderstood. Large applications that used to take ages, started up quickly. I did notice that a few of my preferences had been reset to their defaults, e.g., Dreamweaver and Photoshop Elements start up screens, but that was easily remedied. Some people don't start up a second time. It doesn't matter relative to operation.

This is the End of the second version of the "how to use" instructions

THE THIRD VERSION OF STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS BEGINS HERE

Once again, these are the IDENTICAL instructions to the other two, just with even more explicit direction, this time in sentence format. Some people prefer this style of direction. These are the same steps, just without the numbers ... Choose whichever version is best for you. All these instructions were originally contributed by Terry Graham; exclamation points and caps are as he wrote them.

INSTALL Applejack

Do a restart afterwards just to make sure your system knows it is there and you feel confident that it is. Not necessary I don't think, but I'm covering all bases due to one user never declaring that she ACTUALLY SAW the word APPLEJACK on screen!!!

THEN . . . SHUT DOWN completely

RESTART HOLDING COMMAND S

The screen HALF FILLS with white text system data at which point YOU CAN LET GO of the COMMAND S but it takes a few more seconds for the Applejack SCRIPT to be located and to open up onscreen. WAIT until you see most of the screen fill up with white text and stop. If you see word Applejack appear somewhere (doesn't matter where) you'll know your computer has located and has opened up Applejack and is ready to run it.

WARNING

If you are in doubt that Applejack has "loaded" (computer term) because you don't see the word Applejack anywhere in the text. . . DON'T MOVE A MUSCLE. . . Applejack was most likely not properly installed or NOT INSTALLED, period. In that eventuality shut down by holding your power button for 3 or 4 seconds. If the word Applejack DOES appear on screen, IGNORE THIS WARNING.

To continue. . .

Finally . . . you'll see the suggestion to type "Applejack" in lower case letters with no quotations around it. Your typing will appear beside a little thick, perpendicular white stroke or block. THIS BLOCK DOES NOT BLINK LIKE A TEXT CURSOR AND IS THE PLACE KNOWN AS "AT THE PROMPT" where any typed letters will appear. Don't worry about your normal cursor placement as you would in typical word processing -- the block is the equivalent of your cursor.

AFTER TYPING "applejack" HIT YOUR RETURN KEY ... Then wait a sec ...

NEXT you will see that Applejack strongly suggests running "all the repair functions in sequence" and so you will be advised to do this by typing in the lower case letter 'a' (BUT WITHOUT QUOTATION MARKS)

Then just sit back and let it run. If you want to read the mysterious things that are appearing on screen as the program runs, DON'T TRY TO RESPOND TO ANYTHING, just sit on your hands and watch the wizardry unfold. :-) Some things WILL make sense to you, which will in turn increase your understanding to some degree, so the screen bears watching.

As the operations unfold, in that mix of white text Applejack also injects some friendly, reassuring dialogue relative to its progress and findings.

FINALLY you'll see the message that all the repair work has been completed and you will see an Applejack prompt asking if you want to restart — WHICH YOU DO — and telling you which letter to type in and THIS TIME you'll type in the letter 'r' for restart . . . AND AGAIN you will hit your RETURN KEY.

FORGET THE WORD "REBOOT" type only the lower case letter 'r'
Your computer will restart.

This is the end of the third, and final, version of the instructions and notes for running AppleJack. If you're ready to go for it, you can stop here.

GLOSSARY OF COMPUTER TERMS USED IN THIS ARTICLE

Starting here, I will try to explain computer terms that you may not be familiar with, because if you don't yet know what a Disk Image(.dmg) is, or what your Desktop is, or where your Downloads folder resides, then you are not ready to be installing and running Applejack on your own. If that is the case, please do some web surfing (forums etc.) or ask someone for help.

Remember that any question you might want to ask someone can be typed into Google. Often you will find that someone on a Mac-oriented forum has asked the almost identical question.

Applejack: This is not the fermented drink made from cider, but is a user friendly troubleshooting assistant for Mac OS X. With Applejack you can troubleshoot a computer even if you can't load the GUI, or don't have a startup CD handy. Applejack is run via Single User Mode and is menu-based for ease of use.

Command S: This means to hold down the key that shows the apple symbol and ⌘ AND to depress the s key at the same time. You will then push the power button, while holding down those keys, and your computer will start up, or "boot," in Single User Mode.

Defaults: Everything as it was "out of the box" before any settings or preferences, or options, were changed by the user (that's you).

Disk Image: A disk image is a single, large file that faithfully reproduces all of the contents and functionality of a floppy disk, hard disk, optical disk, CD, DVD or other storage device. The disk image might be anywhere from several megabytes to several gigabytes in size, and will end in one of several extensions including *.iso*, *.cue*, *.bin*, or *.img*. For Macintosh computers, modern disk image files will end in *.dmg*.

GUI: An interface for issuing commands to a computer utilizing a pointing device, such as a mouse, that manipulates and activates graphical images on a monitor.

More Detail: A way of communicating with a computer that uses visual feedback to the user as much as possible. Features of a GUI include the use of icons to represent commands and options, pull-down menus that appear when called for and then disappear when no longer needed, and the use of a mouse to move a pointer around the screen. By pointing to the appropriate icons or menu items and clicking a mouse button, various commands can be activated. It is also possible to use the mouse in drawing programs.

Launch: Launch refers to the "loading" or opening of a program. When one clicks on an icon in the dock, desktop, or other location, one is "launching" or "loading" that program or application. The terms Program and Application are interchangeable.

Prompt: Prompt refers the place where the user is "prompted" to type in a command. On the Applejack screen, it reads, "your choice." There is a non-blinking fat white line (or thin vertical rectangle) usually at the end of your on-screen text. In the earlier applejack screen illustration, if you want to use the "auto pilot"

feature, then you will type the letter a. If you want to quit, type q, etc. **Note:** Just start typing — you won't see the blinking cursor that you are used to seeing, indicating where your text will land.

Reboot: start up the computer, generally synonymous with Restart, but NOT when you are in single user mode. Do not type reboot when using applejack, follow on-screen prompts.

Script: an automated series of sequentially programmed instructions (like a mini program) carried out by your computer, usually upon user initiation.

Single User Mode: (SUM) used for troubleshooting and other alterations relative to system software; in Single User Mode you see a black screen with white text that can be a very intimidating sight. The Applejack portion of that text is fairly straightforward if you don't panic. Just follow the step by step instructions, AFTER WAITING for the computer to complete its filling of the screen with text.

Startup CD: Basically, any CD that can start up your computer because there is a bare-bones operating system on the CD itself. Such a CD may be found among your original install disks, or it may be a disk that you bought (Tech Tool or Disk Warrior) or that you created, for troubleshooting and other purposes — such as when using Target Disk mode between computers in certain situations. Instructions on creating a startup CD can be found at <http://www.macinstruct.com/node/91>

Terminal: Located in your Utilities folder, this application is a very useful tool in the hands of "power users" for repairing computer problems, or altering other system-intensive things. One look is guaranteed to instill terror into the cautious heart of the average user. Terminal looks like Single User Mode, but is not the same.

For the not so faint of heart, <http://www.macdevcenter.com> gives lots of info on working in Terminal.

— Now for the Different User Experiences: The Good & The Bad —

This last section is to show how this article came about. A thread on CLARIS-WORKS email list (home page at awlist.macnuthome.com/) started my interest in Applejack, and it soon became clear to me that a more complete how-to for those unfamiliar with Single User Mode (the dreaded black and white screen) would be useful.

How it began: AC wrote about a problem with Pages, to which Terry Graham responded: There are a couple of good repair utilities that I use with Tiger and they are both free. One is MAIN MENU

Another repair utility is "APPLEJACK." <http://applejack.sourceforge.net/> (next he wrote) ... I've used it (Applejack) about 6 to 10 times, I guess, and always with no glitches whatsoever, except, as I mentioned, it takes a couple of restarts... for your computer to get up to speed and running like new. It takes forever to load up after the first running; meaning, like three minutes instead of one. The beauty of Applejack is that because you boot into "single user mode" to run it, your hard drive is essentially asleep as though you had booted from Disk Warrior or Tech Tool. You get a running menu of the functions it is performing.

NOTE: The next two users had a bad experience trying to run Applejack. Neither experience, however, had to do with the actual script itself, but in the use of Single User Mode. If you have read the instructions thus far, you may spot where things went wrong.

From KT: I just downloaded applejack and installed it. The first time I started up in single user mode, after typing in applejack auto restart I was told that applejack could not be found. I shut down and restarted and then tried again. After typing applejack auto restart I was prompted to type applejack. After doing that the message was did I want to restart or shutdown? This whole process only took a couple of seconds so I am not aware that anything was done. I think I followed the directions but at this point I have no idea.

Also from KT: ... After starting in SUM I got about a half screen of white text on black.... After typing in applejack I got another half screen followed by the question: do you want to restart or shut down. I typed in reboot....

The responses to KT included:

... may have simply exited the system without actually running the applejack script.

... applejack had not been installed correctly

... don't type reboot, follow the onscreen prompt and type r for reboot

Theses next 2 pages include a heavily edited version of BC's experience, and the responses of those who tried to help. I have great empathy for BC. Were it not for the fact that I tend to freeze, rather than act, when confronted with the unknown, her experience could have been mine. The usefulness of her experience for others is to show that the instructions need to be followed exactly. If you don't see what you expect to see from the instructions, don't assume, don't react, don't touch. WAIT. Eventually, you will be prompted to do something.

[BC's first email: Just downloaded AppleJack. Wish me luck.](#)

Terry: Study the "Read Me" carefully. :-)

[From BC: I did. And I deleted it as I do not know anything about how to use the terminal app.](#)

Terry: OH NO! You DON'T HAVE TO USE the Terminal Application AT ALL!

... just boot into SINGLE USER MODE Forget Terminal.

[From BC: That is not what I read in the document that came with it....talks about...using terminal.](#)

Gene van Troyer wrote: The Read Me (referring to the AppleJack Read Me file) is dangerous because on the one hand it says Applejack is designed for single user mode only and that running it logged in as a User will crash your system, but then it offers Terminal instructions and we all know that to run Terminal, one must log into OS X.

Barry Austern: The Terminal instructions are not to RUN the program, but how to read the man file and how to un-install it. I see nothing wrong in the read-me file. If one does go to terminal and reads the man file it will be quite clear.... AppleJack does not run in the Terminal. If you try to do so you might break something....

From Margaret: Applejack does not use the terminal app. To use Applejack, start the computer holding down the command key and the S key. After the text scrolls

past and stops, you type on the black screen at the prompt: applejack auto restart and hit return. Go away and... and come back when Applejack has finished its tasks and restarted your computer.

BC: I threw Applejack in the trash. I reread the direction.... mention that it works only the way I stated. ... I don't know how to work that Terminal.app.

From Barry Austern: You mean that it works only in the Terminal? This is contrary to what everyone else (myself included) says. However, if you do not wish to use AppleJack, which most of us think it an excellent product, it is your right, even if you are incorrect.

From BC: Well then the version I got must be new or something because that is what it said: To work it, use terminal.

From Gene van Troyer: I think the Applejack Read Me is confusing...the writer assumes the potential user already knows

From Bev (that's me): ...I just ran Applejack for the first time... even if it isn't _actually_ running in Terminal, it sure does look like it. I had step-by-step instructions from Terry ...

From BC (combining several messages): ... in reading the readme and then the directions on VersionTracker ...all mention the Terminal

... I am still wary. I downloaded.

... OH Man I messed up. I need to uninstall, any way of doing so?!!!

... I did as told and it gave me an error message. The I just hit my powerbutton to shut down and start up normally.... I got no prompt message. Just a lot of junk.

... I hard shutdown and restarted normally. ... That does it. I am not getting anything that complicatedd again! ... is there a way to uninstall this?

Terry responds: It is not a program known for "messing up" people's computers.

NOTE: He then gives a detailed expalantion for running Disk Utilities... (And then says) Re. APPLEJACK... I'm wondering two things

1. If you properly installed Applejack.

2. If you didn't wait until the black screen totally filled up with white writing and the word APPLEJACK appearing somewhere in that text.

From BC: (combining several messages): ... I appreciate trying to help me.

...My problem is at the prompt screen. The black and white one. All I get is gobbled characters. I can't type anything. ... I will wait patiently for your email off list.

...I now see on the site some incompatability problems with OS 10.4 Tiger. Now they tell me.

Bill Williams wrote: ... since we have three Macs running 10.4.11. Exactly *what* shows incompatability problems with Tiger?... I have and run Applejack 1.5 with no problems...

From BC: Well I tried again to run applejack. At the black screen with white characters at the end there is a blinking box. Well I assume it is telling me to type the command I do so. then return. And it says error. wrongcommand. Also ran Disk Utility. I let it run as far as checking my system. Then when I go to repair. It won't. Says it can't....

From H: I run 10.5.6 but have used Applejack for 4 yrs ... type "applejack auto restart" with no quotes but space between each word and then hit return

BC: That is my problem. I can't. At the bottom of that black and white screen I get nothing but a blinking curser box but when I type the formentioned in quotes I get error try again. ... I give up.

Terry: You shouldn't have assumed Anything! You haven't told us if you were told to type the word "applejack" The box doesn't blink as far as i know. It sounds to me as though you have not properly installed applejack... How about outlining your actual install procedure for applejack.

When recounting your experience, where it comes to computers, you can't just ad lib the essence of the messages you receive...leaves everyone in the dark. You simply must be more specific.

From BC: I know I was talking layman's terms, lol.

THE MIXED:

From KP: Great description and instructions--thanks! Hubby's older MacBook had the run time of frozen oatmeal, so I installed Applejack and let it run. Now comes the ugly — it says that the volume check failed, and some errors were not repaired...

Note: It turned out that KP's problem was a hard drive failure, so no repair script or software could fix it: not Applejack, not Disk Utility, not TechTools, not DiskWarrior.

NOW, THE GOOD:

KP later wrote: I'm glad to have Applejack back in my arsenal of tools — it really is a good tool...

John Engberg: ... I've been using Applejack since it first came out several years ago. I've never once had a problem with it, except for the wait for the version that worked with Leopard. From my perspective, it's bullet proof... I run it about once a month. Some times I use the deep cleaning (that's when you type "auto" in all caps). I also run it manually (just type applejack).... This is the fastest way to repair permissions. I suppose to some it might be a bit disconcerting watching Applejack do its thing, since it's so different from the normal GUI experience.

From JR: The instructions were just about right; I ran AJ 1.5 this afternoon for the first time on the iMac 2.16; OS 10.5.6. Did not touch the keyboard; no major problems appeared although it said it was not repairing a couple things. Took about 15 minutes and then said it was done. All is well.

From JF: ... to make a long story short; I did a lot of reading, then ventured forth, and after a couple of false starts (1. ssssssssss etc. 2. 'applejack') ran the beast (about 18 mins.) without incident, and I have been impressed with the improved speed of my web access. (I'm running OS 10.5.6 on a Mac G5 Intel Core 2 Duo) Thanks for your inspiration, and good luck with the your forthcoming " instructions."

From M: It is a simple procedure and one of the most thorough and safest maintenance programs you can use.

The Disclaimer

This is the entirety of my knowledge about Applejack. I hope I've given you enough information to make an informed decision to either use Applejack, or not. Either choice is yours alone. I cannot guarantee that the use of the script will help, nor can I guarantee that it cannot cause you problems if you don't follow the instructions carefully. The information here should be enough for you to make your own decision.

All contributors assume you are familiar with basic computer terms such as: delete, return key, desktop, double click, download folder, as well as the word wait.

Written by Bev Ludlow

<http://www.bhlwebdesign.com>
<http://www.wirewrapjeweler.com>
<http://www.craftersofcalifornia.com>

About MAIN MENU (An application recommended by Terry Graham):

This one runs like an ordinary program but with a great list of things it does. When you open the program (make an alias of it and put it on your desktop for ease of opening) it puts a little "+" icon in your upper right Menu bar. Clicking on that opens up the list where you can choose what you want it to do. I don't use any of the automated running features with any repair facility, but always use them manually when needed.

MAC DOWNLOADS itself, offers MAIN MENU!

http://www.apple.com/downloads/macosx/system_disk_utilities/mainmenu.html

Mac says:

MainMenu is full of powerful maintenance tools to keep your Mac running like new, within a slick, simple interface.

How's that for reassurance? :-)

Terry

Original email thread: CLARIS-WORKS email list (home page at awlist.macnuthome.com/), owned and moderated by Victor Daniel- 6-7 Mar 2009

Thank you to everyone who helped with information used in this tutorial.

A special thanks to Terry Graham, my amazingly great Editor, for making me look so smart.

*"A foolish man doesn't learn from his mistakes.
A smart man learns from his mistakes.
A wise man learns from the mistakes of others."
-anonymous-*

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