



USER MANUAL



cf/x savescreenie v2.0

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Welcome to cf/x savescreenie

Thank you for choosing cf/x savescreenie. We hope that you enjoy working with it. This document will give you an overview of cf/x savescreenie's features and how to use them

About cf/x savescreenie

cf/x savescreenie is a small tool that alters the way how and where your Mac saves screenshots. Usually, your Mac saves all screenshots in a certain file format (PDF in Leopard, PNG in Snow Leopard), and saves them on your Desktop. Savescreenie can change that (and more).

Why?

Today, the file format of a screenshot is of little consequence, as your Mac can (and does) happily translate transparently between file formats. Plus, you can easily move any file from the desktop to anywhere you want with a single click-and-drag. So then – why would you want to change file format and save location? Well... because you can! Unless you have an intellectually challenged colleague (i.e. someone using Windows who simply must have BMP screenshots), being able to specify file format and save location is a convenience feature that exists only to make you smile and feel smug. Use it often.

Document Conventions

Throughout this document you will find call-outs that define important information. Please look for the following:



An exclamation mark denotes a paragraph that contains important information that you should remember when working with cf/x savescreenie



A paragraph with the ellipsis symbol next to it holds some interesting information that may help you understand how a feature works, or how it interacts with other features.

Installation And Registration

System Requirements

In order to run cf/x savescreenie you need at least the following:

- A Macintosh with a G4 processor or any Intel-based Macintosh
- Some memory (256 MB recommended)
- OSX 10.5 or above

Installing cf/x savescreenie

Simply drag the cf/x savescreenie icon to your 'Applications' folder (or any other place you like).

Registering cf/x savescreenie: you can't – it's free

cf/x savescreenie is completely free. If someone wants to charge you for using it, please let us know.

Savescreenie Features

cf/x savescreenie allows you to change the way your Mac takes screenshot as follows:

- Set screenshot file format to one of the following
 - o Mac OSX default
 - o PNG
 - o PDF
 - o JPEG
 - o JPEG 2000
 - o TIFF
 - o TGA
 - o BMP (yuck!)
 - o PSD
 - o PICT ('a single tear each passing year')
 - o GIF
- Change the location where the screenshots are saved
- Change the screenshot base name

Introduction

The Mac always had a screenshot feature. Pressing 'cmd-shift-3' simultaneously would create a screenshot even in System 1. As of OSX, 'cmd-shift-4' will also create a screenshot, but with the added benefit that you can crop the area before OSX saves it.

In Leopard (10.5) and earlier your Mac saves screenshots in PDF format, in Snow Leopard (10.6) in PNG. In all versions, screenshots are saved to your 'Desktop' folder ((Home)/Desktop).

If you had Unix knowhow, nerves of steel and the grim determination to do it mano-a-mano (whatever that is), you always could change file format and save location by entering a string of arcane commands (see "Real' men do it via terminal' how do tough it out old-skool-like).

Savescreenie is a frontend that does that for you – without worrying if 'killall SystemUIServer' really will only restart the windows server, or if it instead would go about murdering some other processes it doesn't like.

History Lesson

In June 2005, TidBIT's Adam Engst wrote an article that inspired us to write the original Savescreenie. Version 1.x was released a little later in August 2005. In September of that year, Dan Frakes of (MacWorld/MacUser fame) while surveying screenshot utilities called it "One of the best free utilities for changing just the screenshot format" (note how we conveniently leave out his criticisms).

Now, for it's 5th anniversary, we have upgraded savescreenie in many ways: it now is a Universal app, it restarts the UI Server automatically, supports additional file formats, allows you to set the save path, and even can change the save file name.

The only thing that remains the same is the price: it's free (as in beer). If you use it, please remember to smile.

Using Savescreenie

Changing file format

When you start savescreenie 2, it will open a new window. In this window is a panel with two tabs: 'File Format' and 'Path and Name'. Initially open is the 'File Format' tab:

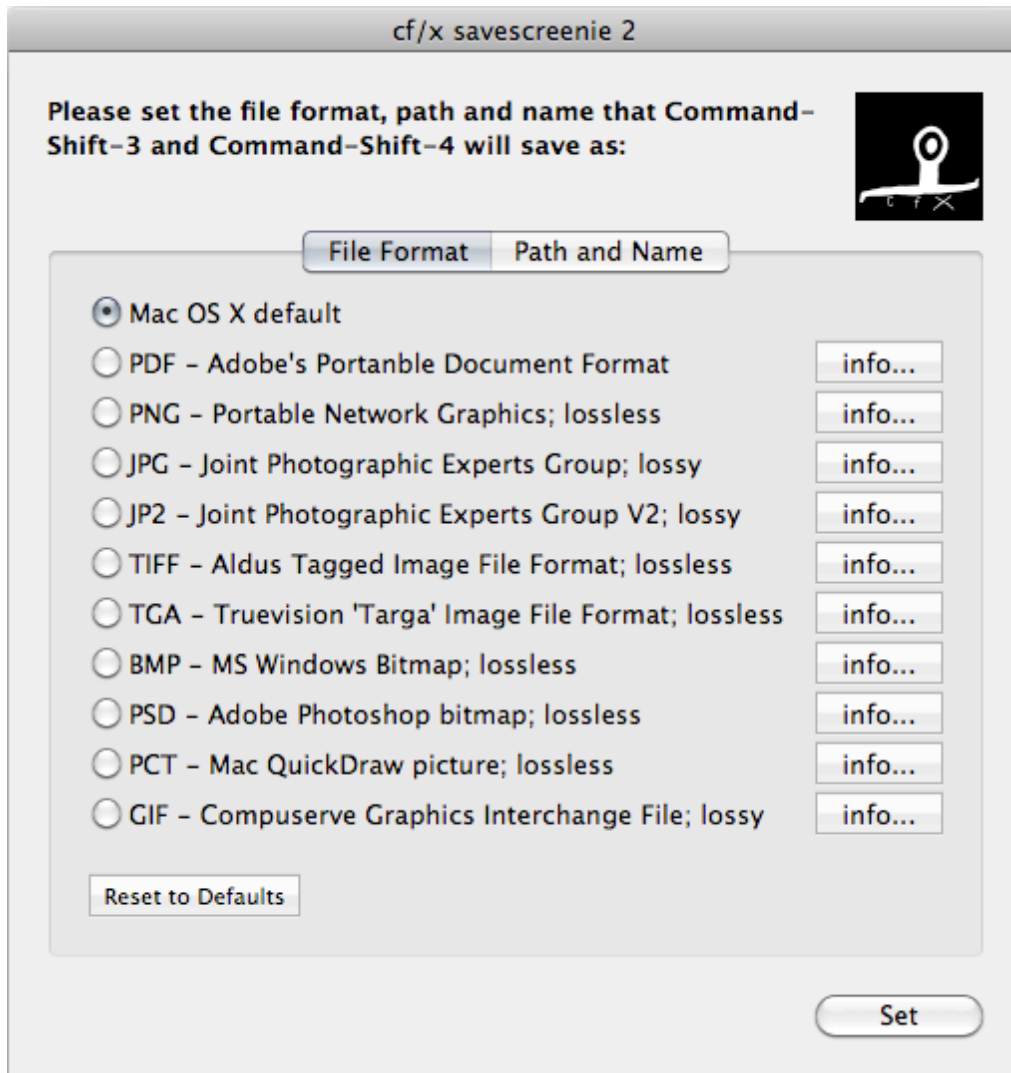


Figure 1 : savescreenie's File Format tab

Here you can set the file format you want the screenshots to be saved as. If you do not know a particular file format, click on the 'info' button next to that format, and your browser will open that file format's most relevant page on the internet.



No change will be made to the screenshot save format until you press the 'Set' button. When you press 'Set' the UI Server will be restarted. This can cause your screen to flicker once.

Please note the first file format option, labeled 'Mac OS X default'. This will have different settings for OSX 10.5 (and earlier) and OSX 10.6 (Snow Leopard). In OSX 10.5 this will default to PDF, and on 10.6 to PNG. When set to default, Savescreenie will simply erase that setting, and let OSX use whatever it uses as default.

File Format Oddities

Not all OSX versions support all file formats. For example, the venerable Macintosh PICT format ('PCT') was discontinued in Snow Leopard. If you set the file format to PCT in OSX 10.6, savescreenie will do as told. Unless you have a non-standard OSX 10.6, though, when you try to create a screenshot, you will get an error message telling you 'Your screen shot can't be save – Unable to create type string' (sorry, can't show you a screenshot of that message – for obvious reasons).

(no image)

Non-Figure 2 : sorry, can't make screen shot of error message

Setting the screenshot format to a type that your OS does not support is annoying, but not dangerous. Simply re-set it. Please refrain from using cf/x savescreenie as a tool to pull a prank on someone with this.

Re-Setting Factory Defaults

Whenever you want to re-set everything to their defaults, press the 'Reset to Defaults' button. This will reliably put everything back to the way your system was installed.



Pressing 'Reset to Defaults' will reset file format, save location and name. When you press 'Reset' the UI Server will be restarted. This can cause your screen to flicker once.

Changing Save location and Name

To change the location where OSX should save your screenshots, press the 'Path and Name' tab.



Figure 2 : savescreenie's Path and Name tab

Here you can change the name base and location for your screenshots.

! As with file format, no change will be made to the screenshot save format until you press the 'Set' button. When you press 'Set' the UI Server will be restarted. This can cause your screen to flicker once.

File Name Oddities

There are different ways OSX 10.6 and older OSX versions use the name base. In OSX 10.5 and earlier, the system would create file with the base name, and then append a number to make sure it is unique. For example, in OSX 10.5 the base name is 'Picture'. If you create the third screen shot (and have not deleted the other two), the system will create a new screenshot called 'Picture 3'.

In OS X 10.6, the base name is appended with a date and time stamp: if the base name was 'Screen shot' (which happens to be the default name in 10.6), and you took a screen shot on the 28th of August, 2010, at 17:45:03, the system would create a file named 'Screen shot 2010-08-28 at 17.45.03'.

When you change the base name, the system's behavior will remain unchanged. If you change the base name to 'Screenie', the screenshots will be saved as follows:

- 'Screenie 3' in OSX 10.5 and earlier
- 'Screenie 2010-08-28 at 17.45.03' in OSX 10.6

Setting the Save Location

Simply click on the 'Set...' button to set a new path to where you want your screenshots to go. A standard file navigation dialog will open, allowing you to select a folder (or create a new one).

Re-Setting Factory Defaults

As previously, you can restore world order by pressing the 'Reset to Defaults' button.



Pressing 'Reset to Defaults' will reset file format, save location and name. When you press 'Reset' the UI Server will be restarted. This can cause your screen to flicker once.

‘Real’ men do it via terminal

Savescreenie is little more than a front end for the OSX **‘defaults’** command, perhaps sprinkled with some lesser magic in the logic it uses to create and post the commands.

You can do all changes yourself in terminal. But before you do, please do you best Clint Eastwood imitation and ask yourself: ‘Do I feel lucky?’

Ok, here goes:

We use the **‘defaults’** command to set the various bits, and then restart the UI server using the **‘killall’** command. Use ‘man defaults’ and ‘man killall’ to get more info on these commands.

To set the file format, fire up Terminal, and give the following commands:

```
cfx% defaults write com.apple.screencapture type <type>
```

To set the save location, use

```
cfx% defaults write com.apple.screencapture location <URL>
```

The url must be fully expanded and escaped, e.g. ‘/Users/James%20Bond/topsecret’. Tilde and wildcards do not work.

To set the base name use

```
cfx% defaults write com.apple.screencapture name <name>
```

After you changed name, location or file type, restart the UI server by issuing the following command:

```
cfx% killall SystemUIServer
```

Now, do you really trust us enough to be sure that we resisted the temptation of having a cheap practical joke at your expense? Did you really read up on the ‘killall’ command?

Acknowledgements

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