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List Of Disk Recovery Tools For The Macintosh (9/94)

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TOPIC ---

Here is a list of disk recovery tools, with some comments.

DISCUSSION --

1st Aid Kit, by Datawatch Corp. (formerly 1stAid Software)

Audience Level: Novice to Intermediate.

A general trouble-shooting package, including file and disk recovery. The main
feature of the system is its 300-page manual. This manual describes many of the
errors a user may receive, including printing/Chooser errors, memory problems,
and Finder messages (such as, "Trash could not be emptied,") and lists
procedures to solve that problem. It also includes detailed information on what
can go wrong with a disk, and how 1st Aid Kit can fix it. The manual is fully
indexed and cross-referenced.

It includes a software program intended to aid in the recovery and
identification of lost or deleted files, and also contains capabilities for
extracting files from crashed disks. It does NOT alter the original crashed
disk, or offer sector editing. This program contains extensive on-line help.

The File menu includes: Eject All, Archive volume Info, Check for Uninitialized
Disk, Erase Deleted Files, Initialize, Help, and Quit.

The Edit menu includes: Undo, Cut, Copy, Paste, Clear, and Help.

The Disk Repair menu includes: Diagnose & Recover, Salvage Files by Tags, Zero
Out Bad Sectors, Fix Boot Blocks, and Help.

The File Repair menu includes: Work on File, Undelete Files, Rejoin File, and
Help.

Disk First Aid v7.2, by Apple Computer, Inc.

Audience Level: Novice to Expert

Disk First Aid is a utility which verifies the directory structure of any
hierarchical file system (HFS) based storage volume. Many hard disk drives,
floppy disk and compact disk (CD) drives are examples of HFS-based storage
volumes.

If imperfections are found within a volume, Disk First Aid can be used as a
"first step" to repair the defects/ if a volume has suffered several corruption
other utility programs or repair methods may need to be used.

Disk First Aid 7.2 (released August 1993) checks for and repairs following
volume attributes:

• Disk volume
• Extent B-tree
• Extent File
• Catalog B-tree
• Catalog File
• Catalog Hierarchy
• Volume Info
• Search for locked volume name

You can save the results of a verification or repair scan as a TeachText (text)
document.

Disk First Aid cannot scan for deleted or trashed files or folders on a volume.
There are several third party products which perform these tasks, however.

FEdit, by MacMaster Systems

Audience Level: Intermediate to Expert

This is a Block Editing system for HFS and MFS floppies and hard disks.

Version 1.0.5 lets you open either a file or disk volume for examining and
editing. You can read sectors in their raw form, or view the VIB, Boot Blocks,
and file headers in an interpreted form. You can perform sequential and multiple
read/writes using multiple block buffers. Editing and display can be set to Hex
or ASCII. File options allow you to open either the Data or Resource fork, and
even exchange them. Search capabilities let you enter either Hex or ASCII data,
and will even search the sector tags if present. Special options let you create
or delete files, set the end of a file, recreate the volume bit map, analyze the
state of file fragmentation, and recover deleted files. Support for HFS file
recovery and display is not fully implemented.

Version 2.0 now contains support for full HFS recovery, including the use of
sector tags for file recovery and low-level SCSI routines.

MacTools, by Central Point Software, Inc.

(Disk Editor and File Utility included with Copy II Mac)

Audience Level: Intermediate to Expert

This program includes: Copy files/disk, rename files/disk, verify that a
file/disk has no errors, view and edit file and disk sectors, format a disk,
delete a file, lock and unlock files, make file visible or invisible to the
Finder, protect or unprotect files from normal copying, change the startup
application on a disk to something other than the Finder, recover deleted files
and repair some damaged disk, look or change the information stored on disk,
print a list of files on the disk.

MacTools offers two methods of files recovery. The first uses the tag
information on floppies and hard disks that support them. The second involves an
INIT program that saves information about deleted files into a data file as they
are deleted. A routine in MacTools can then be used to extract that information
and recover the deleted files.

MacTools also offers a limited form of disk recovery. If a disk cannot be
mounted (the Finder displays the "This disk is damaged" dialog box,) you can use
MacTools to mount the disk, erasing the directory at the same time. If the disk
supports tags, you can use MacTools to recover them. If you don't want to erase
the directory, you can use a disk editor provided with MacTools to examine and
patch the disk.

MacZap, by Micro Analyst

Audience Level: Intermediate to Expert

This is a three-part disk and memory utility. It contains many programs that can
be used to recover some damaged files and disks, to compare disks, analyze disk
structure, and make back-up copies of most disks.

Version 5.0 includes Disk Clinic, a program that helps diagnose a disk and
recommends recovery procedures.

Norton Utilities v2.0.3, by Symantec

Audience Level: Novice to Expert

Data recovery, disk repair and backup Macintosh Plus or larger; 2 MB of RAM (3
MB for System 7); hard disk drive; System 6.0.4 or later.

Norton Utilities for Macintosh combines and enhances the features from two
products: SUM II and Norton Utilities. The combination of these two products
results in a utility software package that offers fully integrated advanced disk
repair and recovery, automatic backup, data security, productivity tools and

system enhancements in one informative, easy-to-use product. Version 2.0.3 goes deeper to recover lost or damaged data in a wider variety of circumstances, and the Norton Disk Doctor diagnoses and repairs damaged hard disks and floppies automatically with a single click of the mouse. Norton Utilities allows users to protect valuable data and make day-to-day functions a breeze.

Public Utilities by 5th Generation Systems (bought by Symantec)

Audience Level: Novice to Expert

Public Utilities is a disk recovery utility for Macintosh hard drives. It contains a prevention monitor that keeps the hard drive from crashing.

To locate a vendor's address and phone numbers, use the vendor name as a search string.

Article Change History:
21 Sep 1994 - Reformatted and corrected utility names.
16 Sep 1993 - Added Disk First Aid, Norton Utilities, and Public Utilities
26 Jul 1993 - Company title updated from Datawatch to Datawatch Corp.

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