Tech Info Library

HyperCard 2.3: Description and Specifications (4/95)

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TOPIC ---

The following article gives a brief overview of and lists technical
specifications for HyperCard 2.3.

DISCUSSION --

Description
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HyperCard 2.3, is the latest version in Apple's tool for creating custom
software solutions for business, education, and multimedia. The software is
intended for commercial developers, consultants, in-house programmers, and end
users to display information in any way they need to.

HyperCard organizes information into easy-to-use "stacks" of cards through which
users can navigate and search for the information they need. Simply by clicking
on a button, they can view related text, see a graphic, hear a sound, watch a
QuickTime movie, or listen to text spoken out loud.

HyperCard provides an easy mechanism for distributing the stacks you have
created. You can save any stack as a stand-alone, double-clickable Macintosh
application that can be distributed without software royalty fees.

Technical Specifications
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Usage Requirements

• Macintosh, Power Macintosh, or PowerBook computer
    - QuickTime tools require 68020 processor or greater
    - Text-to-speech requires 68040 processor or grater
• Hard Drive

- 2MB RAM minimum with systems previous to System 7
- 4MB RAM minimum with System 7
- 5MB RAM recommended when using color tools
- System 6.0.5 or later
  - 6.0.7 required for color tools
  - 7.1 or later required for AppleScript, Button Tasks, Stand-alone application builder.
- QuickTime Tools require QuickTime system extension
- Text-to-Speech requires PlainTalk software (included)
- Multilingual HyperCard Applications may require WorldScript software and/or international versions of AppleScript software.

Support For Scripting Languages

• Add power and versatility to HyperCard applications using HyperTalk (HyperCard's scripting language) or any scripting language compatible with the Open Scripting Architecture (OSA), such as AppleScript.

• Attach AppleScript scripts to HyperCard objects such as buttons to launch and control other applications, exchange data with them, and so on—even over a network.

• Link HyperCard stacks with any of more than 100 scriptable applications, such as Claris FileMaker Pro 2.0 and Microsoft Excel 4.0 (applications must be running under System 7).

• Use localized versions of AppleScript system extensions to script in Japanese, French, or other languages (requires additional software).

Multimedia Features

• Add QuickTime movies to stacks using the QuickTime Tools stack

• Include sound, animation, and graphics in your stacks

• Have HyperCard text read aloud by your computer

Color Drawing And Painting Tools

• Choose from 256 colors to apply to buttons, fields, backgrounds, and cards

• Import 24-bit color or grayscale PICT graphics

• Resize, reposition, and edit graphics on the card

• Create PICT images with 24-bit color painting tools

Automated Button Tasks

• Automatically assign tasks to buttons without writing a single script

• Go to another destination (first card, previous card, home, or others)

- Play a QuickTime movie

- Play a sound

- Have text read aloud (using PlainTalk software)

- Launch another application

- Apply visual effects for transitions between cards

Development Features
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• Third-party external commands (XCMDs) let you control a wide variety of
systems and equipment, including mainframe computers, networks, videodisc
players, and CD-ROM drives.

• Hypertext applications can be created by linking a word or group of words.

• Modeless script editor lets you view several scripts and stacks at once and
quickly copy and paste HyperTalk or AppleScript code between them.

• Debugging menu lets you set checkpoints in, and step and trace through, a
HyperTalk script while it's running, for fast and easy troubleshooting.

• Background processing lets you continue working in other applications while
complex scripts are running or while you compact or sort a stack.

• Variable Watcher shows how variables are used and changed and lets you edit
variables while debugging your script.

• Message Watcher lets you view HyperTalk messages as they're sent, so you can
see how your program's logic really works.

• "Save as" options let you create stand-alone applications or ones that can run
using HyperCard Player (widely available on Macintosh systems).

Flexible Formatting And Reporting

• Design multiple report layouts for each stack—and copy and paste report
formats between stacks.

• Control the content, appearance (including font, size, and style), and
placement of text elements in report formats

• Create card sizes ranging from 1 by 1 inch to 18 by 18 inches.

• Print individual fields, selected parts of a card, a single card, selected
cards (containing a certain word, button, or background), or an entire stack

Support
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HyperCard 2.3 is supported by the Apple Assurance Software Support group at 1-800-SOS-APPL (767-2775).

Support Information Services

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