Magnifique User's Guide

Magnifique is the free theming application from PCWiz Computer that allows anyone to take advantage of the vast repository of themes available for Mac OS X in just a few clicks. **This application is only compatible with OS X 10.5.x!** What does Magnifique mean for theme developers? Its an easy way to distribute your themes to a wider audience. Here's a quick overview of what each function does:

1. Add Theme button. This can be used to add themes to your library
2. Remove Theme deletes the selected theme from your themes directory
3. Refresh the theme list (if you added/removed themes manually while the application is running)
4. Displays any themes that are currently in your library, click one to bring up info
5. Search field to search through your theme library
6. Lists available theme downloads from the Magnifique site that you can download right from the app.

7. Search through the downloads (searching downloads is a bit slow at times)
8. Displays the name of the selected theme
9. The Apply Theme button opens a dialog box with options to apply the selected theme (more on this later)
10. Preview of the selected theme (if author has included a preview image)
11. Displays the currently installed theme
12. Allows you to uninstall a theme that you installed to revert to the original look
13. Create your own Magnifique theme file (covered in the Developer's Guide)
14. Rename a selected theme that is in your library
15. Restarts Finder to see theme changes (same as killall Finder)
16. Restarts Dock to see any dock theme that has been applied (same as killall Dock)
17. Show the selected local theme file in Finder
18. See the full preview image for the theme
19. Bring up the user guide (what you are reading now)
20. This brings up a dialog with all the information about the selected theme (works with both downloads and local themes)
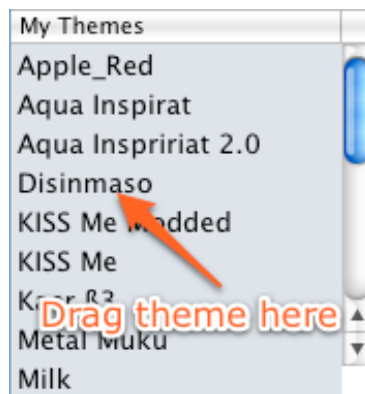
* One item not displayed here is the Theme Mixer toolbar button which opens the mixer panel, allowing you to combine elements from themes to make your own!

Adding Themes

To add themes to your Library:
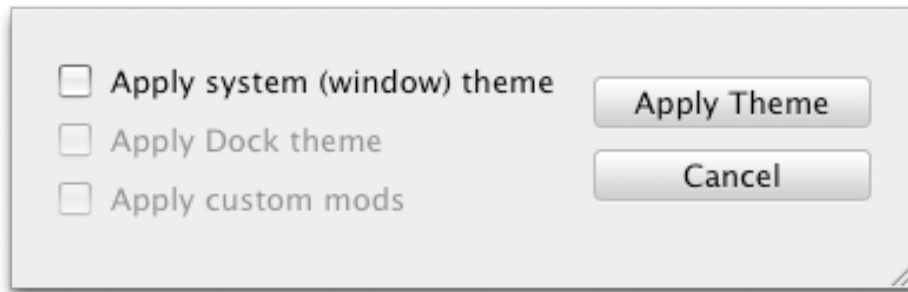

OR

Click Add Theme button   Drag theme to My Themes list

Basically what happens when a theme is "added" is that the theme file is copied to the internal Magnifique Themes folder. Only Magnifique theme files with the **.mfq.plugin extension** are accepted. DO NOT EVER add theme files from people that are not trusted. **These files have the potential to completely destroy your system with a malicious script. Once the theme is added you can delete the original.** Make sure to have plenty of hard disk space ! Themes can vary in size from a small 2MB to huge 50MB complete system themes.

Removing Themes

Deleting a theme is easy, just click on the theme from the My Themes list and click the Remove Theme (-) button (2). It will ask you to confirm, and will then delete the theme. If you want to for some reason delete all your themes then go to the Magnifique menu and click "Delete all themes"

Applying Themes

When you click on a theme and click the "Apply Theme" button you are presented with this dialog:

This offers 3 theme options. The options that are not supported by the theme file will be greyed out. Here is what each option installs:

Apply system (window) theme - This will be the choice for the vast majority of OS X themes. It can install ArtFile.bin, SArtFile,bin, Extras/Extras2.rsrc, AquaUI.bundle, and LeopardUI.bundle

Apply Dock theme - Dock themes can be installed using this. It will install the Dock resource files to /System/Library/CoreServices/Dock.app/Contents/Resources

Apply custom mods - The most flexible option and the most dangerous as well. It can install ANY file to the system. This option will mostly be used to apply mods to applications and such. Read the description of the theme (hopefully the developer specified what is installed with "custom mods")

Once you have selected your options (All options or a combination of) click Apply Theme. If a previous theme had been installed it will be auto uninstalled and the new one will be applied. To see changes click Restart Finder, and if you modified the Dock, click Restart Dock.

Uninstalling a Theme

Uninstalling is easy enough (assuming you have a theme installed), click the Uninstall button at the bottom of the window, confirm, and it will uninstall automatically.

Renaming a Theme

With the release of Magnifique 1.1, themes can easily be renamed. Just click on the theme to rename, and press Command + 1 on your keyboard to bring up the rename prompt.

Downloading a theme

To download a theme from our library, simply click the theme from the Available Downloads list and in the black bar click the "Download Now" button and click OK on the confirmation prompt. The theme file will then be downloaded, extracted, and added to your library.

NOTE about cancelling downloads: If you cancel a download, Magnifique will have to exit and you will have to start it again to continue using it. The reason for this is that after cancelling the download, for reasons unknown, the processes are still taking up CPU cycles until the app quits.

Force quitting Magnifique

If for some reason the app errors out during a process and it hangs, then it needs to be force quitted. To do this go to the Apple menu >> Force Quit >> choose Magnifique >> click Force Quit.

Setting Preferences

To see the available preferences go to the Magnifique menu and click Preferences. You can enable/disable Check for Updates on startup, Downloads, and download previews. Click Save to save your preferences and they will take effect the next time you restart Magnifique.

NOTE: The preferences window will be disabled the first time you use the program as the preferences have not been created. Restarting Magnifique will solve this.

Restoring to original from command line

If you can't boot the system after installing a theme but can get to a command line prompt, you can use Magnifique's command line restore script. **DO NOT use this script unless its absolutely desperate, as it does not uninstall as well as Magnifique's built in uninstaller.** Mount your partition and run the script (its stored in the partition root) called magnifique_restore like this:
/magnifique_restore

Advanced Settings

Some advanced settings are available from the Magnifique menu. Please do not use these unless you know what they are and what they do.

Checking for Updates

To check for updates manually go to the Magnifique menu and click Check for Updates
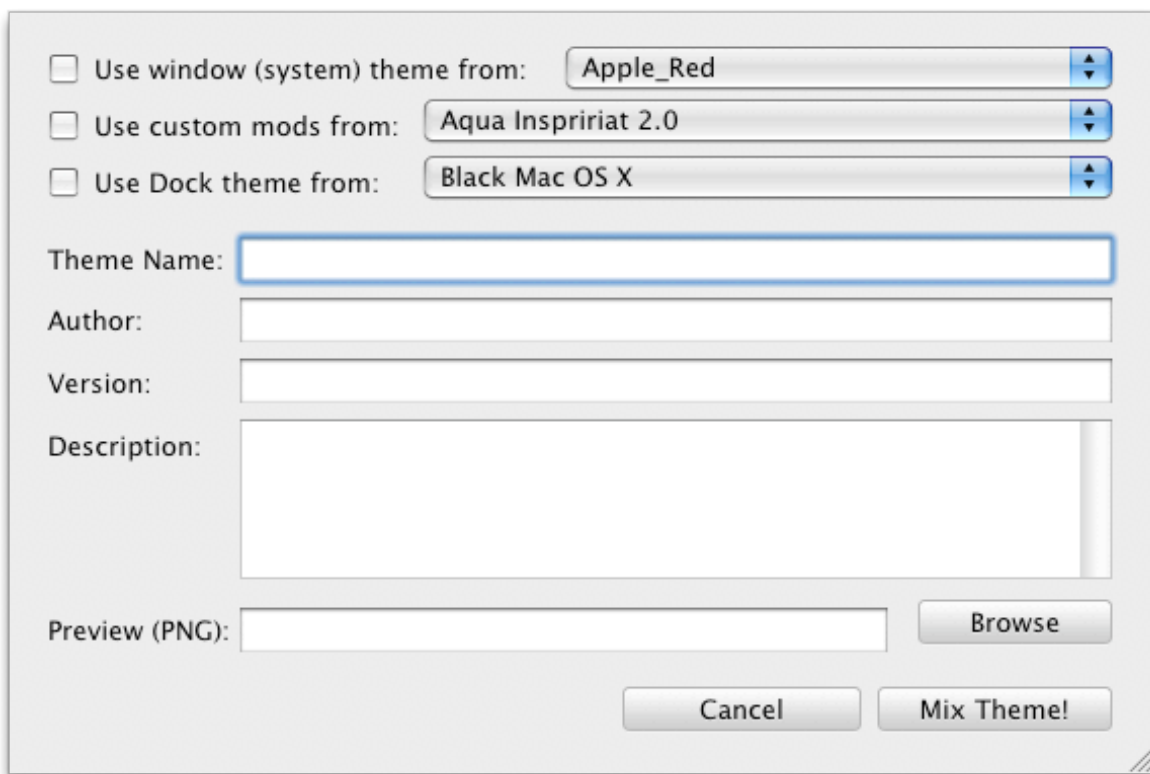
Show Theme File in Finder

If you want to find a theme file for distribution in Finder, just click the theme on the theme list, and press Command + F on your keyboard to show the file in Finder.

Menu Bar on Themes

If you see a custom menu bar on a theme, chances are that you will have to disable the translucent menubar to see changes. To do this, go to System Preferences >> Desktop & Screensaver, and uncheck the "Translucent menubar" checkbox

Mixing Themes

Say, what if you want the window theme from one theme and custom mods from another? Well now its easy to mix and match with the Theme Mixer introduced in Magnifique 2.1. To get started, click the Theme Mixer button on the toolbar.

The interface is easy enough to figure out. Tick the checkboxes for what you want to include, and use the pull down menus to select from which theme. Then enter the usual information (name, author, version, description) and even include a preview image if you want to. Then click Mix Theme and let the Magnifique mixer start stirring, and watch as your frankentheme creation comes to life!

Creating your own themes

Interested in being a developer and creating your own themes? Check the Developer's Guide included with the Magnifique Package.