

# Introduction to Mac OS X Automation

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# Welcome!



# About Me > Ben Waldie

- President, Automated Workflows, LLC
- Author: Automator for Mac OS X 10.6 Snow Leopard: Visual QuickStart Guide (Peachpit Press)
- Contributor: Macworld magazine, Apple.com, MacTech magazine, MacScripser.net, Peachpit.com
- Developer of Automator actions for Microsoft Office 2008 and 2011
- 2006 winner Apple Design Award for Best Automator Workflow
- Host: Mac Automation Made Simple Video Podcast





# AppleScript

# What is AppleScript?

- Built into Mac OS X
- Used to control existing applications
- Automates time consuming and repetitive tasks



# Benefits of AppleScript

- ✦ Faster
- ✦ Fewer mistakes
- ✦ Accurate
- ✦ Consistent
- ✦ Higher quality results



# Benefits of AppleScript

- ✦ Unattended operation
- ✦ Server-based automation
- ✦ Integrate multi-platforms
- ✦ Expand application features
- ✦ Build interfaces



# What AppleScript Can Do

- ✦ Batch processing
- ✦ Database publishing
- ✦ Image manipulation and conversion
- ✦ File/folder maintenance
- ✦ Much more!

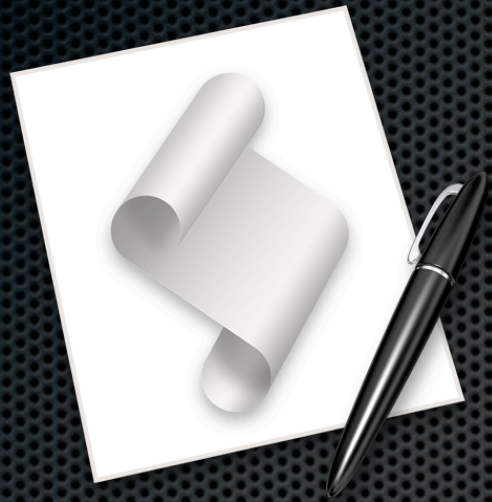




# Scriptable Applications

- Applications must support AppleScript
- Level of AppleScript support may vary from application to application
- Terminology may change between versions
- Scriptable applications include an AppleScript dictionary





Let's Take a  
Look



Automator

# What is Automator?

- Released with Mac OS X 10.4 Tiger
- Received major overhaul with Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard
- Automates time consuming and repetitive tasks on your Mac
- No scripting or programming necessary



# The Benefits of Automator

- ✦ Brings the power of multi-application automation to the user level!
- ✦ Reduces user errors
- ✦ Reduces time consuming and repetitive tasks
- ✦ Allows for unattended automation
- ✦ Leaves more time to enjoy life :-)



# What Automator's Good For?

- Automating simple tasks in one or multiple applications
- Batch manipulating files, music, photos, and more
- Adding custom functions to applications



# What Automator's Not Good For?

- ✦ Automating super-complex tasks
- ✦ Analyzing situations and taking different courses of action





Let's Take a  
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Services

# What are Services?

- ✦ Automation options
- ✦ Application Services menu
- ✦ Services contextual menu
- ✦ Enables functionality within an application to be shared with other applications
- ✦ No scripting or coding required





Let's Take a  
Look

# Resources



# Websites

- ✦ Mac OS X Automation (Apple)
  - ✦ <http://macosxautomation.com/>
- ✦ MacScripter
  - ✦ <http://macscripter.net>



# Websites



- ✦ [www.automatedworkflows.com](http://www.automatedworkflows.com)
- ✦ My website
- ✦ AppleScript & Automator tips, articles, books, etc.
- ✦ [www.automatedworkflows.com/tips/tips.html](http://www.automatedworkflows.com/tips/tips.html)



# Books

- AppleScript 1-2-3
- [www.peachpit.com](http://www.peachpit.com)



# Books

- Automator for Mac OS X 10.6 Snow Leopard: Visual QuickStart Guide
- [www.peachpit.com/benwaldie](http://www.peachpit.com/benwaldie)





# Podcast

- Mac Automation Made Simple
  - iTunes or [www.peachpit.com/podcasts](http://www.peachpit.com/podcasts)



## Mac Automation Made Simple

with Ben Waldie



# Q & A

(Please Fill Out Your Evaluation Form)

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