

# Finder Assistant

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## Description

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Finder Assistant is a Keyboard Maestro macro set that provides a means to complete common Finder tasks. Although there is no direct integration, used in combination with [Alfred's Universal Actions](#), almost every Finder task can be completed with the keyboard.

## Getting Started

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### Dependencies

Finder Assistant has been tested with **Keyboard Maestro** v11.0.2; however, it might function properly with v10.2. Moving forward however, due to the complexity of the macro set, there will be no attempt to support outdated versions of Keyboard Maestro.

### Installing

- Download and unzip the **Finder Assistant** zip file.
- Install the main macro and supporting subroutine macros by double-clicking the macro export (file with the **kmmacros** extension). The main macro and 42 subroutines will be installed on a group named **:Finder Assistant**.
- Enable the **:Finder Assistant** group and the primary macro: **Finder Assistant**. The 42 subroutines do not need to be enabled.
- After running **Finder Assistant** and reading the *introductory dialog* and *comments within the configuration file* (i.e., **Favorite Folders File**), optionally copy the files within the **Templates** folder to the location instructed.

## Configuration Settings

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- **Macro Settings: Finder Assistant (FA)** includes several configuration settings within the macro. These settings are identified with comments (magenta) and variable actions (orange). The default settings should be initially used and only adjusted after understanding the basic operation and features of **FA**.
- **Favorite Folders File (FFF)**: This is a plain text file that is created and managed by the macro, however, it can be also modified using any text editor.
- **File and Folder Templates**: Default file and folder templates are provided, but others can be freely added at any time.

## Hot keys

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The primary and secondary hot keys for **Finder Assistant**, `^␣F` and `^⌘␣F`, can be freely changed with one restriction: the secondary hot key must include the *option* key ( `⌘` ).

## Executing Finder Assistant

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**Finder Assistant** is normally executed using the primary hot key. The response is context sensitive, based on the items selected (or not) within the Finder at the time the macro is started.

- If one or more Finder items (files and/or folders) are selected, a menu is displayed that contains up to eleven options: **Move**, **Keep**, **Enclose**, **Zip**, **Copy**, **Alias**, **Replace**, **Tag**, **Write**, **Navigate**, **Save**.
- If a Finder window is open, but no items are selected, a menu is displayed that includes three options: **Write**, **Navigate**, and **Save**.
- If a Finder window is not open, or if one or more are open but none have focus, the **Navigation** menu is displayed.
- The macro includes many other context-sensitive nuances that will be discovered as the macro is used.

If a macOS application (e.g., **Preview**) **Open** or **Save** dialog is open, the **Navigation** menu will appear if the secondary hot key triggers **Finder Assistant**. This can be used to quickly switch to a *Favorite Folder*.

## Additional Information

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Additional information is provided in the **introductory dialog** when **Finder Assistant** is first executed. The **Favorite Folders File** also includes helpful comments for configuration and operation.

## Design Notes

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- **Finder Assistant (FA)** is a complex macro, but by employing context sensitivity combined with menu and dialog cues, and the overview documentation provided in **Favorite Folders File (FFF)**, it should be relatively easy to understand.
- The *verbs* used in **FA** (i.e., **Move**, **Keep**, **Enclose**, **Zip**, **Copy**, **Alias**, **Replace**, **Tag**, **Write**, **Navigate**, **Save**) used in **Finder Assistant** were selected so that menu selections could be made with the fewest possible keystrokes (i.e., each begin with a unique letter). For more information, refer to the **FFF**.
- **FA** is designed to complete the various Finder tasks within the active [Mission Control Desktop Space](#). It will effectively ignore *Minimized* (but not *Hidden*) Finder windows and also all Finder windows open in other *Desktop Spaces*.

## Author

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[@\\_jims](#)

## Version History

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## v0.22 (2024-04-08)

### Modified

- Finder Assistant:
  - Used [Set Next Engine Window Position](#) to center each [Prompt With List](#).
  - Modified the WindowArgs in the call to subroutine: **s.fnd**→CreateNewFolderOrFile
  - Reorganized the macro code for the tag processing by moving dialog and logic to a new subroutine: **s.fnd**→Tags

### Added

- **s.fnd**→Tags : includes the dialog and all logic in the subroutines deleted.

### Deleted

- **s.tc**→AddToTagsClipboard
- **s.tc**→ClearTagsClipboard
- **s.tc**→GetTagsClipboard
- **s.tc**→ReplaceTagsClipboard
- **s.tc**→SubtractFromTagsClipboard
- **s.ti**→AddToTagsOfItems
- **s.ti**→ClearTagsOfItems
- **s.ti**→GetTagsOfItems
- **s.ti**→ReplaceTagsOfItems

Reorganized the macro code for the tag processing: a) moved dialog and logic from 'Finder Assistant' to a new subroutine: **s.fnd**→Tags;

## v0.21 (2024-04-06)

### Added

- **s.fnd**→NewFinderTabInSpace:
  - This sub was mistakenly in another macro group, thus not included in the 0.20 zip file.
  - Changed subroutine parameter **local\_\_WindowsPositionAndSize** to **local\_\_WindowArgs**.

### Modified

- Finder Assistant:
  - Added [Set Next Engine Window Position](#) before the main tags dialog.
- **s.fnd**→ZipToPath:
  - Added [Set Next Engine Window Position](#) before the first zip dialog.

## v0.20 (2024-04-05)

- First release to the full Keyboard Maestro forum.

- Removed the headers from undocumented subroutines. The headers will be added back if this macro set is ever upgraded to Version 1.0.

## Modified

- Finder Assistant:
  - Changed setting **local\_Windows Position and Size** to **local\_WindowArgs**. For more information, refer to [Positioning & Resizing Windows, Dialogs, and Lists Using WindowArgs](#).
- **s.fnd→NewTabOrWindowInSpace**:
  - Changed subroutine parameter **local\_\_WindowsPositionAndSize** to **local\_WindowArgs**.

## v0.19 (2023-04-29 2330)

- Finder Assistant, section *Handle Potential Additions to the Favorite Folders File—Generate Dialogs*
  - Added call to subroutine **s.p→LongToShort**.
  - In call to subroutine **s.p→ConvertPath**, change parameter *LongToShort* from **0** to **1**.
- **s.f→GetFavoriteFoldersPaths**
  - Add call to subroutine **s.p→LongToShort**.

With the changes above, the a *shortname* can be used in the **Favorite Folders File (FFF)** for cloud services. For example:

shortname: /iCloud Drive

name: ~/Library/Mobile Documents/com~apple~CloudDocs

shortname: /OneDrive

name: ~/Library/CloudStorage/OneDrive-Personal

See, subroutine **s.p→LongToShort**, variable **local\_PathsToConvert**.

## v0.18 (2022-12-22 1302)

## Modified

- Finder Assistant:
  - Bug Fix: For calls to **s.fnd→EncloseItems** and **s.fnd→ZipToPath** and parameters:
    - SuffixFormat
    - SuffixInitial
    - SuffixIncrement
- **s.fnd→EncloseItems** and **s.fnd→ZipToPath**:
  - Bug Fix: Added the three parameters listed above. (This bug was created in v0.16 when the parameters were added to **s.fnd→CreateUniqueFolder**.)

## v0.17 (2022-12-18 2226)

## Modified

- Finder Assistant:
  - Bug Fix: Moved call to **s.fnd→GetActiveTabPath** above `If local_SelectionCount = 0`. This allows the

PWL 2 if statements to work as expected when the Navigate option is selected.

- Cleaned up the `DEBUG – Display initial values` Group action.
- Changed the `.a Finder Assistant` Group icon to the Finder.
- `s.p→ChooseFolder`:
  - Bug Fix: Added proper handling in cases when `local__OptionalStartingPath` is set to a file.

## v0.16 (2022-12-18 0023)

### Modified

- Finder Assistant:
  - Simplified the infrequently changed settings set near the top of the macro.
  - Added the following settings: `local_SuffixFormat`, `local_SuffixInitial`, `local_SuffixIncrement`.
  - Passed the new suffix settings to `s.fnd→CreateNewFolderOrFile`.
  - Added a dialog that is displayed if the Finder is not focused and the FFF is empty.
  - Added an option to reveal the FFF.
  - Updated a few comments.
- `s.fnd→CreateNewFolderOrFile`:
  - Added parameters for the new suffix settings.
  - Added new suffix settings to the dialog boxes.
  - Passed the new suffix settings to `s.fnd→CreateUniqueFolder` and `s.fnd→CreateUniquePlainTextFile`.
- `s.fnd→CreateUniqueFolder`:
  - Added parameters for the new suffix settings.
  - Added logic to create folder suffix based on new settings.
- `s.fnd→CreateUniquePlainTextFile`:
  - Added parameters for the new suffix settings.
  - Added logic to create file suffix based on new settings.
- `s.f→GetFavoriteFoldersPaths`:
  - Modified RegEx from `(?m)(?:.*:~)?(?:.*)?/?$` to `(?m)^(?:.*:~)?(?:[^\:~]*)\/?(?:.*)?$`.
  - Updated the RegEx comment.
- `s.f→GetFavoriteFoldersPrompts`:
  - Updated the RegEx comment.
- `s.p→ConvertPath`:
  - Removed some disabled actions.

## v0.15 (2022-12-16 1402)

### Modified

- Finder Assistant:
  - Improved comments before calls to `s.f→GetFavoriteFoldersPaths` and `s.f→GetFavoriteFoldersPrompts`.
  - Moved `s.f→GetFavoriteFoldersPrompts` to the *PWL 2* section. When *PWL 1* is required, it will be rendered more quickly. For options that do not require the Favorite Folders, this sub will never run. For options that do require Favorite Folders, the sub will run between *PWL 1* and *PWL 2*.
  - Changed *PWL 2* section from **Switch/Case** to **If**.
- `*s.f→GetFavoriteFoldersPaths`:
  - Parameter changed from `local__Path` to `local__Content`.
  - Removed logic to ignore comments. Logic moved to new sub: `s.f→GetFavoriteFoldersContent`.

- Modified RegEx pattern from `(?m)(?:.*:)?(?:.*)?$` to `(?m)(?:.*:)?(?:.*)?/?$`. This replaced a **Standardized Path (Filter)** in the **For each** loop.
- **\*s.f→GetFavoriteFoldersPrompts:**
  - Parameter changed from `local__Path` to `local__Content`.
  - Removed logic to ignore comments. Logic moved to new sub: `s.f→GetFavoriteFoldersContent`.
  - In first **If (All)**, removed second condition `local_line is not ::` and in second **If (All)**, removed second condition `local_line is not :`. **Search** (RegEx) will now generate an error if the FFF includes a syntax error (e.g., if it includes a line that is `:` or `::` with no other information), but the sub will continue processing the `FffContent`.
  - Removed case-correction feature because it is very unlikely that this would be needed.
  - Changed second RegEx from `(.+:):(.*)` to `(.+?)/?:(.*)`.
  - Changed first call to `s.p→ConvertPath (Path, 0, 1, 0)` to **Abbreviate With Tilde In Path (Filter)**.
  - Changed second call to `s.p→ConvertPath (Path, 1, 1, 0)` to call to new `s.p→LongToShort`.

## Added

- **\*s.f→GetFavoriteFoldersContent**
- **\*s.p→LongToShort**

## v0.14 (2022-12-15 1127)

- Added the [Activate a Specific Application](#) action (for the Finder) at the end of the **Navigate** option. Without it, new Finder Tabs and Finder Windows would sometimes remain behind another foreground application.
- In the main macro, **Finder Assistant**:
  - Improved and repositioned the long Comment that describes the macro *Options*.
  - Rolled up the main *Group* actions so that it is easier to understand and navigate the macro.
- Macros updated:
  - Finder Assistant

## v0.13 (2022-12-14 2233)

- Updated two variables used in the **Prompt With List** menus:
  - Previously `local_OriginDescription` could be *Finder Tab* or *Me*. Added *Our*.
  - Previously `local_AncestorModifier` could be *Finder Tab* or *My*. Added *Our*.
- Improved the two similar dialogs that are displayed when a folder is a candidate for the Favorite Folder File (FFF):
  - Changed prompt from *add* to *save* (to be consistent with the *Save* option).
  - With the *Save* option dialog, changed the label **Target Folder Path** to **Selection Folder Path**, **Parent Folder Path**, or **Grandparent Folder Path** (depending on the folder being potentially saved to the FFF).
- When creating a new Folder or File, the Finder window is no longer positioned and resized.
- When opening the *Templates* folder, the new window position and size is specified from Finder Assistant, not hardcoded in `s.fnd→CreateNewFolderOrFile`.
- Confirmed that the System Clipboard is properly restored after pasting the selected folder into an *Open* or *Save* dialog.
- Bug Fix: The Tag option dialog notes included the old variable name for `local_PWLOptionObject`.
- Macros updated:
  - Finder Assistant
  - `s.fnd→CreateNewFolderOrFile`

## v0.12 (2022-12-10 0035)

- Improvements with management of Favorite Folders file:
  - Enabled HTML style comments
  - Improved prepend function
- Macros added:
  - `s.u→StripComments`
- Macros updated:
  - Finder Assistant
  - `s.f→GetFavoriteFoldersPaths`
  - `s.f→GetFavoriteFoldersPrompts`
  - `s.f→PrependToFile`

## v0.11 (2022-11-29 1459)

- Bug Fix: The subroutine `s.f→AppendToFile` was mistakenly not included in the download; this *broke* an `Execute a Subroutine` action in the the main macro: **Finder Assistant**

## v0.1 (2022-11-22 0038)

- Initial beta Release.
- Comments with the main macro and subroutines are incomplete.
- Testing has been extensive, but all completed by author (using macOS Ventura). There are no *known* bugs.

Note: During beta testing, the above version number and date will be changed as new beta versions are shared. The version numbers and dates of the subroutines will not necessarily be changed (prior to the release of version 1.0).

# License

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# Acknowledgments

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This macro was inspired by at least five other macros:

- [New File Here- \(from a Template\) v2.00](#), by @ccstone
- [\[FINDER\] Move Selected Finder Items to Choose Folder \[Example\] - Macro Library - Keyboard Maestro Discourse](#), by the late @JMichaelTX
- [A Few Favorites Macro \(v9.1\) - Macro Library - Keyboard Maestro Discourse](#), by @mrpasini
- [Move Selected Finder Items to the Specified Folder - Macro Library - Keyboard Maestro Discourse](#), by @ccstone.
- [Move to Specified Folder – Add Selected Folder in Finder](#), by @ccstone

Based on everything I've learned from others on this forum, there are probably other techniques I've borrowed from others. (If there are other macros that come to mind, please bring them to my attention so I can include the proper attribution.)