



Black Ink

User Guide

1. Getting Started with Black Ink	4
The Puzzle Window	4
Opening Puzzles	5
Navigation	5
Mouse Navigation	5
Keyboard Navigation	5
Direct Word Navigation	6
OneAcross.com Lookup	6
Puzzle Timer	7
Menus	7
Black Ink menu	7
File menu	8
Edit menu	9
View menu	9
Solution Menu	10
Window Menu	11
Help Menu	11
Multi-Letter Cell Input	12
2. Configuration	13
Preferences	13
Appearance Preferences	14
Startup Preferences	15
Solving Preferences	16

Web Puzzles	18
Print Options	20
3. Black Ink and Spotlight	21
Spotlight Integration	21
Search Examples	21
Finding All Puzzles	21
Finding Puzzles By Author	21
More Information	21
4. Purchasing Black Ink	22

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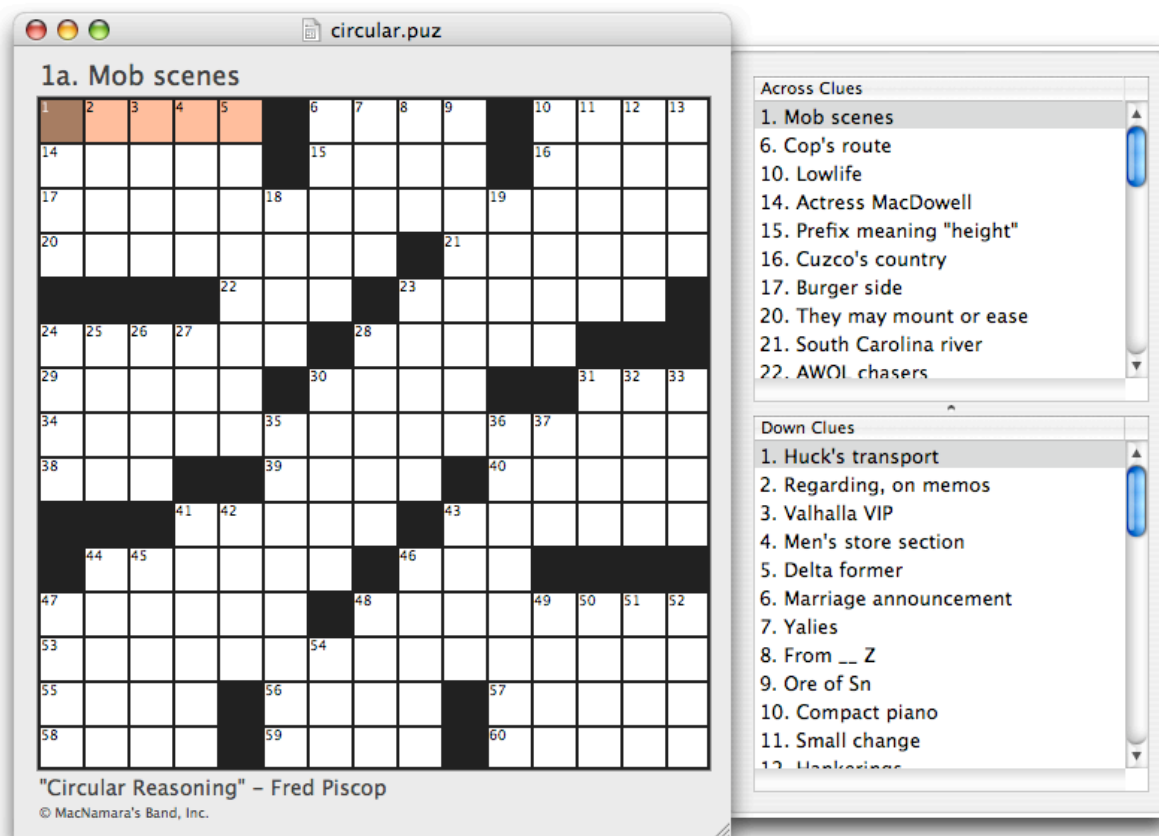
1. Getting Started with Black Ink

This chapter introduces you to Black Ink

Welcome to Black Ink! In this chapter you will discover the main features of Black Ink and how to access crossword puzzles from the Internet.

The Puzzle Window

Black Ink displays each puzzle in its own window, allowing you to work on more than one crossword at a time. Each window has the standard title bar, including controls to close, minimize, and zoom. The filename of the puzzle is also displayed. The puzzle grid occupies the major portion of the window. You navigate within the grid as described in the Navigation section. The current clue is displayed above the puzzle grid. When open, the clue list drawer is attached to the puzzle window on the left, right or bottom edge.



Opening Puzzles

The first thing you will want to do is get some puzzles to solve. Black Ink makes it a snap to download puzzles from the Internet. By default Black Ink displays a web puzzle browser dialog when it is first launched. Simply click on a puzzle source and you'll be solving in moments!

At any time you may choose another web puzzle to solve by selecting "Open Web Puzzle" from the "File" menu. Both the launch-time browser and the Open menu contain all of the puzzle sources configured in Black Ink's Preferences dialog. If you find another source on the Internet, you can use Preferences to add it to the list. Even reorder the list to put your favorite puzzles at the top!

If you have existing puzzle files on your computer, simply choose the "Open" item from the "File" menu to choose the puzzle file. Black Ink even provides an "Open as Unsolved" menu item in the "File" menu, useful for replaying old puzzles.

Navigation

Black Ink provides a number of ways to navigate within the puzzle. Many of the navigation mechanisms are directly affected by user preferences. (See the Preferences section of the Configuration chapter for more information.) When a puzzle is opened, the first word is selected, usually 1 across. The selected word is always identified by highlighting, with the highlight color determined by your system-wide preference. The insertion point is identified by a darker shade of the highlight color. The grid itself is composed of white and black cells. White cells are active and can contain user typed characters. Black cells are inactive and cannot be modified.

Mouse Navigation

Black Ink provides for the use of the mouse for puzzle navigation. A single click anywhere within the puzzle grid on an active cell will cause the insertion point to change to that cell. If the click occurs within the current insertion point bounds then the orientation of the selected word may change. The orientation will not change if a valid selection is not possible for that cell in that direction. This is frequently the case in cryptic crossword puzzles where only about 25% of the cells are part of both across and down words. When the insertion point changes the selected word will also change, provided the new insertion point is not a cell within the currently selected word. When the selected word changes via this mechanism the orientation will remain the same. When the orientation changes the selected word always changes. You can also change the insertion point and selected word by selecting a clue from either the across or down list in the clue list drawer. The default preferences specify that the insertion point will jump to the first empty cell in a word when you select a word from the clue list. See the Preferences section for this and other navigation preferences.

Keyboard Navigation

The main mechanism for interacting with the crossword puzzle grid is the keyboard. The default action when you type a letter is to fill the current insertion point cell with that letter and to move the insertion point to the next empty cell in the word. This movement

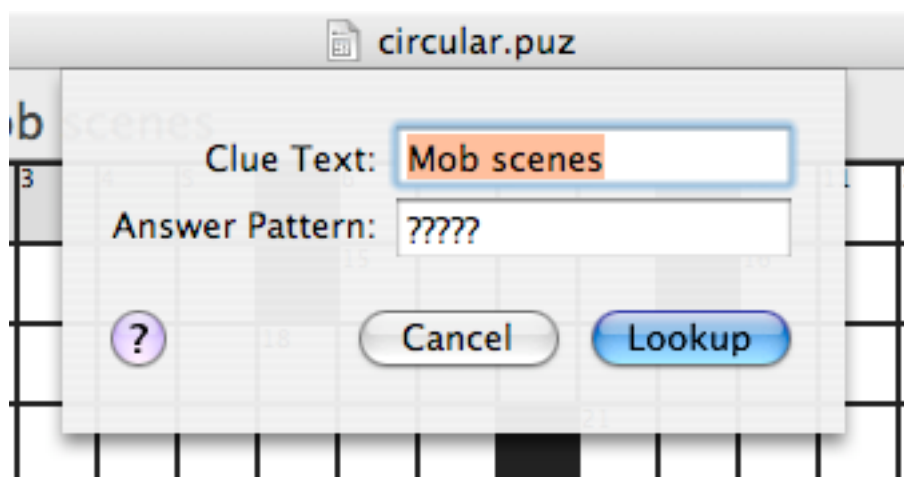
can be disabled or modified. (See the Preferences section of the Configuration chapter.) You can also move the insertion point using the arrow keys. When navigating with arrow keys, the selected orientation and word can be changed by altering the direction of movement from horizontal to vertical or vice versa. For example, if the current selection is an across word and you press the down arrow key (assuming there is a valid cell below the current insertion point), the selection orientation will change to down instead of across. By default, the insertion point does not change, but this behavior is also controlled by a preference. (See the Preferences section of the Configuration chapter.) Arrow key navigation moves the insertion point through inactive cells but is constrained by the bounds of the puzzle grid. The tab key or return key can be used to move to the next word for the current orientation. The shift-tab key combination will move to the previous word for the current orientation.

Direct Word Navigation

Black Ink provides a quick navigation method using the keyboard that allows you to jump instantly to any word in the puzzle. By entering the number of the word and pressing the Return key the active cell will change to the first cell of the puzzle word specified. For example, to move from 1 across to 85 down you would simply enter 85 and press Return. An overlay containing the digits entered is centered over the crossword grid as a visual aid. You can press Escape to cancel a partially entered number.

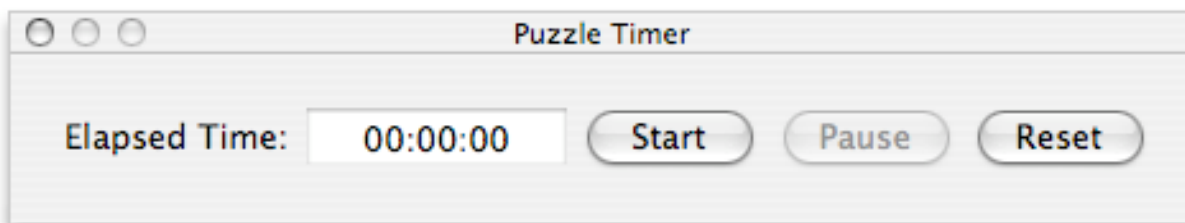
OneAcross.com Lookup

Black Ink makes it easy to search the OneAcross (<http://www.oneacross.com/>) online clue database. The OneAcross system connects clue text to crossword solutions. The service is free, with a suggested donation of \$20 per year. The “Answer Pattern” specifies the number of letters in the word, and any letters that may be in the word positionally. For example, if there was a 4 letter word and the middle two letters were “NC”, the pattern would be “?NC?”. Black Ink will fill in the clue text, build the pattern based on the existing puzzle board contents, and display this in a window. The pattern and clue text can be changed before sending a query. When the query is sent, it will open your default browser and display the result page. Your browser is used to comply with the OneAcross usage guidelines. If you use this functionality regularly, please make a donation to OneAcross through their web site.



Puzzle Timer

Black Ink provides a simple timer for keeping track of how long it takes you to solve a puzzle. The amount of time spent on the active puzzle since starting the timer will be displayed in the timer window. Switching to a different puzzle will cause the timer window to display the amount of time spent on that puzzle since starting the timer. If the timer has not been started the Start button will be enabled. If the timer has been started the Stop button will be enabled. The Timer window is shown below.



Menus

The menus in Black Ink are a combination of standard application menus and Black Ink-specific menus. Items of interest are detailed below.

Black Ink menu

The Black Ink menu is used to access functionality that affects the application as a whole. Standard OS X menu items such as Services, Hide, and Quit will not be detailed here.

Menu Item	Purpose
About Black Ink	Displays credits and information about Black Ink.
Purchase Black Ink...	Displays information about purchasing and registering your evaluation copy of Black Ink.
Check For Up-date	Checks the Red Sweater Software homepage for Black Ink to see if there is a newer version available for download.
Preferences...	Displays the Preferences window for Black Ink. See the Preferences section of the Configuration chapter for detailed information.

File menu

The File menu is used for opening, saving, and printing puzzles.

Menu Item	Purpose
Open Web Puzzle	A submenu appears with a list of your configured and enabled web puzzle sources. Select a source to download the latest puzzle and begin working on it.
Open File...	Opens a crossword puzzle file. The view will be restricted to files ending in the .puz extension.
Open as Unsolved...	Opens a crossword puzzle file, clearing any previous answers before displaying it. Useful for resolving.
Open Recent	Opens a recently opened crossword puzzle file as selected from its sub menu. The history can be cleared by selecting "Clear Menu."
Close	Closes the active puzzle document.
Save	Saves the active puzzle document with its existing name.
Save As...	Saves the active puzzle document, after prompting for the location and name of the resulting puzzle file.
Revert to Saved	Reverts the active puzzle document to its last saved state, or its original state if there have been no saves since opening.
Page Setup...	Provides the ability to modify standard page layout settings for the currently active crossword puzzle in preparation for printing. Contains Black Ink specific printing options. See the "Print Options" section in the Configuration chapter for more information.
Print...	Prints the active puzzle document, allowing standard printer settings to be modified.

Edit menu

The Edit menu is used to perform a variety of text manipulation actions on the board of the active puzzle document.

Menu Item	Purpose
Undo	Changes the puzzle back to the state just prior to the last action. The name of this menu item will be appended with text to identify what the action was.
Redo	Negates the previous Undo action.
Cut Word	Cuts the active word, causing the cells to be emptied and the cut text to be added to the system pasteboard.
Copy Word	Copies the text of the active word into the system pasteboard.
Paste Word	Pastes available text from the system pasteboard into the active word. If the available text is longer than the active word, it will be trimmed before insertion into the board. This action will replace any existing text in the active word.
Clear Word	Clears the active word, causing the cells to be emptied.
Enter Multiple Letters	For special puzzles which require multi-letter answers in some squares, this menu item facilitates the entry of such letters.

View menu

The View menu is used to adjust the appearance of the active puzzle document.

Menu Item	Purpose
Show/Hide Clue Lists	Toggles the display of the drawer containing the puzzle clue lists for Across and Down. The menu name will be modified to reflect the effect of selecting it.
Show Puzzle Note...	Displays a window containing the text of the puzzle note. This menu item will be disabled if there is no note in the currently active crossword puzzle.
Show Puzzle Timer	Makes the puzzle timer window visible for the active puzzle document.

Solution Menu

The Solution menu contains actions that are related to the puzzle solution, some of which are only available if the puzzle is unscrambled.

Menu Item	Purpose
Check Current Letter	Compares the value at the insertion point cell to the correct answer letter. The cell will be modified according to the Cell State settings in the Appearance preference.
Check Current Word	Performs the same comparison as Check Current letter for each cell in the currently active word.
Check Entire Puzzle	Performs the same comparison as Check Current letter for each cell in the entire puzzle.
Reveal Current Letter	Reveals the answer letter of the insertion point cell, marks the character as having been revealed. The cell will be modified according to the Cell State settings in the Appearance preference. Once a letter has been revealed it cannot be changed.
Reveal Current Word	Performs the same action as Reveal Current letter for all the cells in the currently active word.
Reveal Incorrect Letters	Reveals the answer letter for any cell in the puzzle which is incorrect, marking each revealed character. Once a letter has been revealed it cannot be changed.
Reveal Entire Puzzle	Reveals the answer letter for all the cells in the puzzle, marking each revealed character. The cell will be modified according to the Cell State settings in the Appearance preference. Once a letter has been revealed it cannot be changed.
OneAcross.com Lookup...	Displays the OneAcross Lookup sheet, pre-populated with the clue and answer text for the selected word. See the OneAcross Lookup section above for more information.

Window Menu

The Window menu is used to navigate among the existing windows that belong to Black Ink.

Menu Item	Purpose
Minimize Window	Shrinks the puzzle window and places it in the Dock.
Zoom	Toggles the window size between the largest reasonable size for the current screen, and the custom size you last set the window to.
Web Puzzle Chooser	Displays the menu of web puzzle sources available, in an easily clickable window.
Bring All to Front	Brings all Black Ink windows to the front, above other application windows.

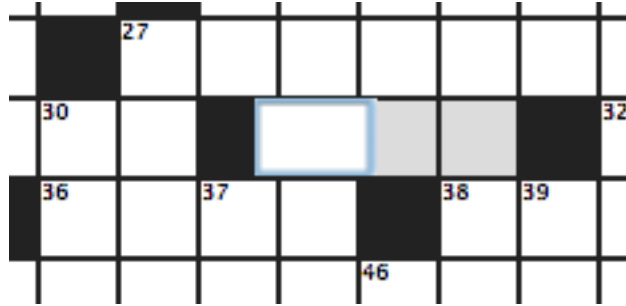
Help Menu

The Help menu provides quick access to user documentation and support.

Menu Item	Purpose
Black Ink User Guide	Displays this document.
Visit Support Forums	Opens the Black Ink discussion forum in your default web browser.
Send Support Request	Opens a new email message in your default email client, addressed to the Black Ink Support email address.

Multi-Letter Cell Input

Some crossword puzzles are created with themes that require multiple letters in a single cell. Typing a letter in a cell normally advances the input location to the next cell in the word, so to enter multiple letters Black Ink features a separate input mechanism. To enter multiple letters, you may either control-click the cell you wish to enter into, or else select “Enter Multiple Letters” from the Edit menu. An enlarged input area will appear, allowing the entry of however many letters are needed:



To end editing press the return key. Note that it is possible to press return with an empty input area if entering multiple letters was not intended or to delete previously entered letters. For puzzles that contain multiple letter cell answers the check and reveal functionality will take that information into account.

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2. Configuration

This chapter details the configuration of Black Ink.

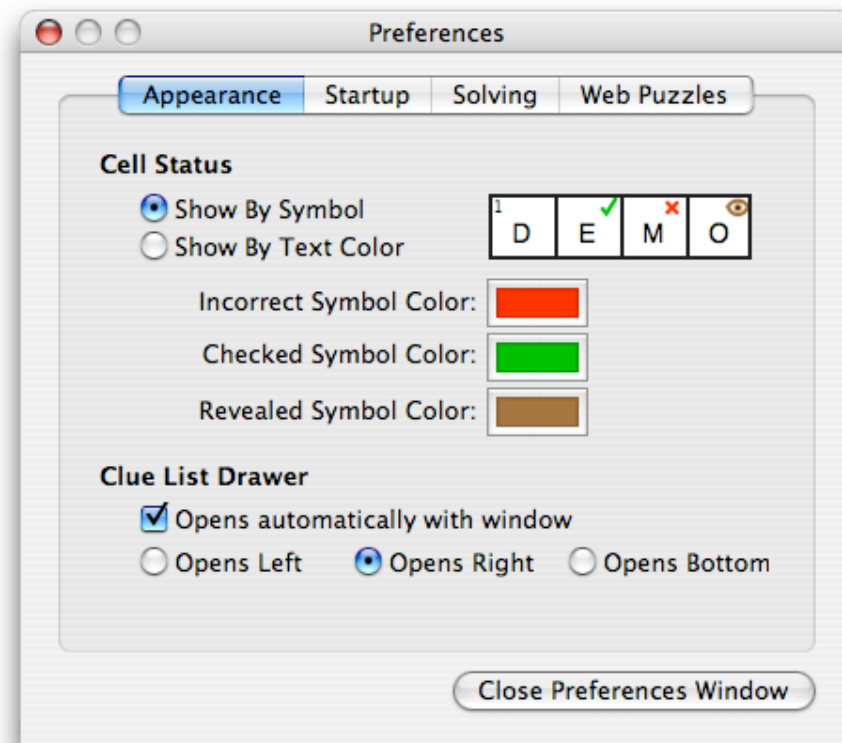
Black Ink has many configuration options, allowing a fine-tuned solving experience.

Preferences

Black Ink preferences allow you to customize certain display and behavioral characteristics of the application. Preferences are broken into four categories: Appearance, Startup, Solving, and Web Puzzles. Selecting Preferences from the Black Ink menu will cause the Preferences window to appear.

Appearance Preferences

Appearance preferences are concerned with visual aspects of Black Ink.



The Cell Status section of the Appearance pane controls the visual feedback Black Ink uses to convey information about the way a cell was solved. As you solve, check, or reveal puzzle cells, information about the correctness of the cell can be displayed by either a small symbol, or by a custom coloring of the answer text. The preview cells on the right side of the pane give immediate feedback about how the settings will look while solving.

An “Incorrect” cell is one whose value has been found to be different from the correct answer, after being checked with one of the “Check” menu items in the “Solution” menu.

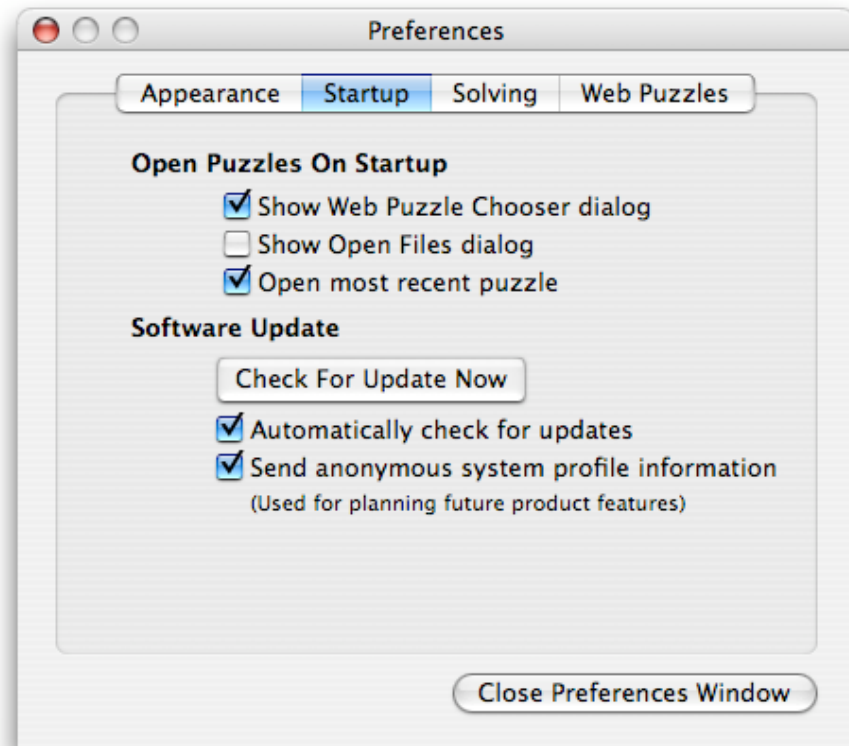
A “Checked” cell is one whose value has been confirmed as the correct answer, after having been previously marked “Incorrect” by one of the “Check” menu items in the “Solution” menu.

A “Revealed” cell is one whose correct value has been supplied by Black Ink, using one of the “Reveal” menu items in the “Solution” menu.

The Clue List Drawer section of the Appearance pane is used to change behavior of the clue lists. Check the “Opens automatically with window” checkbox if you want the clue list drawer to automatically open when a puzzle document is opened.

Startup Preferences

Startup preferences deal with the behavior of Black Ink upon launching. Use these settings to adjust the behavior according to your puzzle solving & downloading habits.



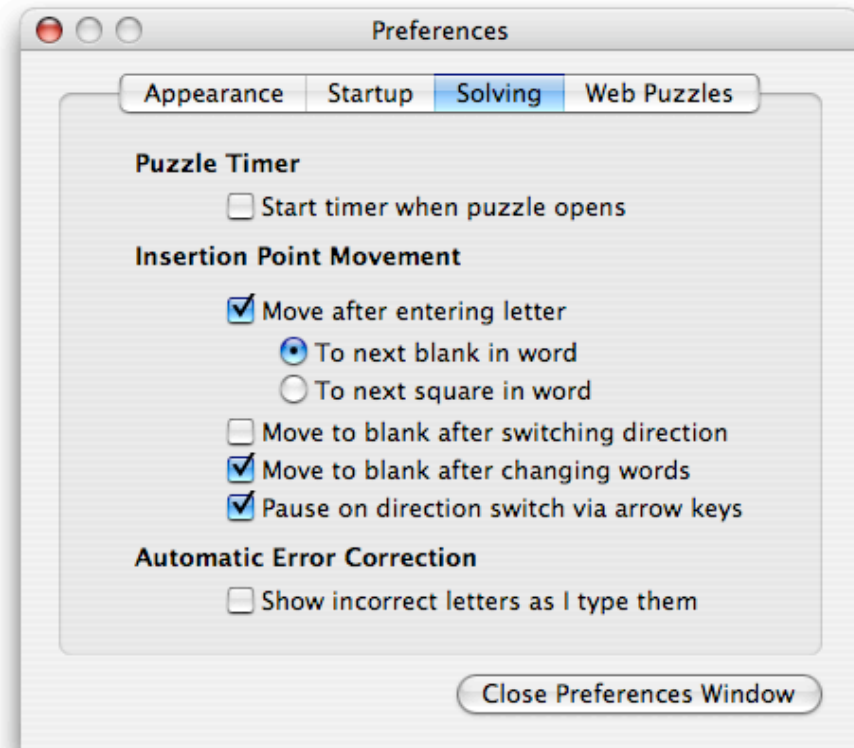
The “Open Puzzles On Startup” section includes three options aimed at making it easy to start solving as quickly as possible after launching Black Ink. The “Show Web Puzzle Chooser dialog” checkbox instructs Black Ink to display a menu of your web puzzle choices at launch time. Clicking one of these puzzle sources causes a web puzzle to be downloaded and immediately opened for solving.

The “Show Open Files dialog” option instructs Black Ink to display a standard file opening dialog at launch time. Using this dialog, you can locate and open a puzzle file from your computer’s disk.

Select the “Open most recent puzzle” item if you want Black Ink to try to open the puzzle you were last working on, after it finishes launching.

Solving Preferences

Solving preferences include options for the puzzle timer, automatic error correction, and for adjusting the mechanics of insertion point movement while solving a puzzle.



Select the “Start timer when puzzle opens” option if you want Black Ink to show and start the puzzle timer immediately upon opening a puzzle document. See the Timer section for more information.

The Insertion Point Movement section is used to control how the insertion point changes when various actions occur. The “Move after entering letter” checkbox enables or disables the selection of a movement mechanism. If this checkbox is unchecked, the insertion point will not change when a letter is typed on the keyboard, requiring you to move the insertion point manually. If the checkbox is checked, one of two mechanisms will be used to determine how the insertion point moves. The “To next blank in word” option causes the insertion point to move to the next blank cell in the word, or simply to the next cell if there are no blank cells. If “To next square in word” is selected, the selection will always move to the next square in the word, regardless of its contents.

“Move to blank after switch in direction” causes the insertion point to move to the first blank square in a word when the orientation is toggled via a mouse action. The mouse actions that qualify are control-click and right mouse click.

“Move to blank after changing words” causes the insertion point to move to the first blank square in a word after you move to a new word using tab, shift-tab, return, or by mouse-clicking an item from the clue list.

“Pause on direction switch via arrow keys” defines the behavior when you change the orientation by pressing an arrow key. As outlined in the Keyboard Navigation section, the selection orientation and selected word can be changed by changing the direction of movement from horizontal to vertical or vice versa. When this preference is checked, the orientation will toggle, but the insertion point will not change (unless it is necessary in order to facilitate an orientation switch). When it is unchecked, the orientation changes, and the cursor jumps to the next cell in the word.

“Show incorrect letters as I type them” allows you to be alerted immediately whenever you make a mistake in solving a puzzle. This preference is ignored for scrambled puzzles.

Web Puzzles

Use the Web Puzzles pane to manage your list of puzzle download sources. Checked sources appear in both the Web Puzzle Chooser and in the Open Web Puzzle menu.

The sources can be edited in order to change the name, URL, and expected days available. Click the “New Source” button to add a source using URL information from the web.

The Web Puzzle downloads folder identifies the area on your disk where newly downloaded puzzles are saved. Black Ink organizes the contents of the folder by source name so it is easy to browse puzzle files in the Finder.

When you add or edit a source, a sheet dialog is displayed so that you can enter details about the puzzle source:

Web Source Name:
New York Times Classic

Web Source URL:
<http://www.nytimes.com/specials/puzzles/classic.puz>

Use percent-codes for template URL: %d for day, %m for month, %y for 2-digit year, and %Y for 4-digit year.

Expect new puzzles on:
☐ Sun ☒ Mon ☐ Tue ☐ Wed ☐ Thu ☐ Fri ☐ Sat

Cancel OK

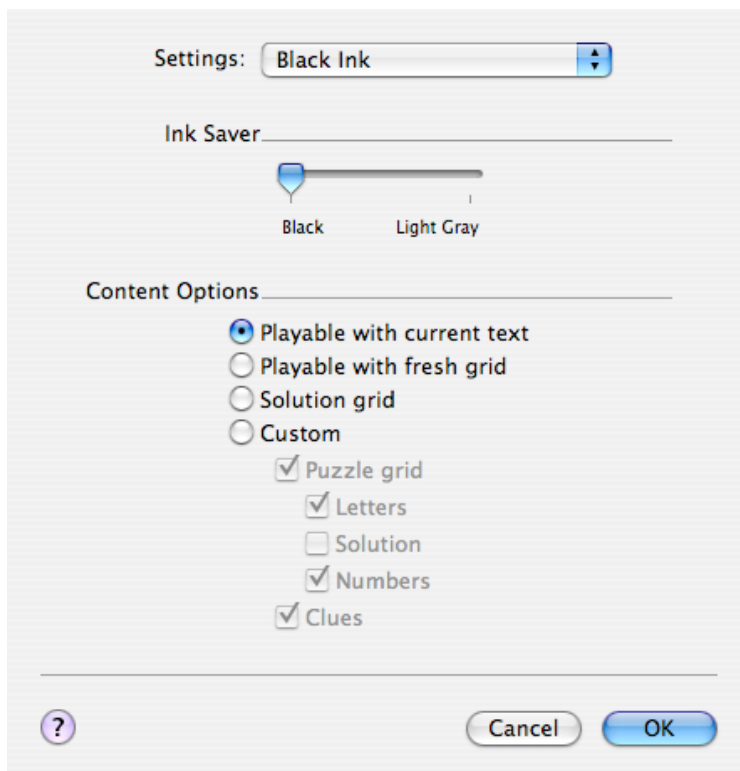
The Web Source Name appears as the menu item name in the “Open Web Puzzle” menu if the source is checked. The Web Source URL is the internet address used to download a puzzle. You can specify placeholders for values such as day, month, and year as required by the service you are downloading from. The placeholder will be replaced with the value for the appropriate date when the source is selected for download. A subset of these placeholders is listed below.

Placeholder	Purpose
%d	Two digit day, e.g. 02 for the 2nd day of the month
%m	Two digit month, e.g. 08 for August
%y	Year without century, e.g. 07 for 2007
%Y	Year with century, e.g. 2007

The “expect new puzzles” checkboxes should be used to specify which days of the week new puzzles are generally made available on. Black Ink uses this information to download the most recently published puzzle for any given source. If the source is only published on Sunday and you select the source from the “Sources” menu on Wednesday then Black Ink will replace the placeholders in the URL with Sunday’s date in order to properly download the puzzle.

Print Options

Black Ink provides support for a variety of printing-related options. These options are accessed via the “Page Setup” item in the “File” menu. Select Black Ink from the Settings list in the sheet displayed on the puzzle window. You will be presented with the view shown below.



The print options are broken into two categories: Ink Saver and Content Options. Ink Saver allows you to specify a gray value between Black and Light Gray in which the crossword grid will be printed. The closer the slider is positioned to Light Gray, the lighter the printed grid will be. Printing a lighter color should reduce the amount of ink used to print the grid on paper.

Content Options allows you to choose one of three pre-defined sets of printing content or to manually select what content will be printed. Selecting “Playable with current text” will print the puzzle grid, letters, numbers, and clues. Selecting “Playable with fresh grid” is similar but does not print letters. Selecting “Solution grid” only prints the puzzle grid and solution letters. Finally, selecting “Custom” allows manual selection of the content to be printed. Note that letters and solution are mutually exclusive. If the puzzle you are printing is scrambled, then the solution option will be unavailable.

Black Ink automatically determines if more than one page is required to print all the selected content. Generally speaking, puzzles with dimensions greater than 17x17 will require two pages if both “Puzzle Grid” and “Clues” are selected.

3

3. Black Ink and Spotlight

This chapter explains Black Ink's integration with Spotlight.

Black Ink provides indexing for puzzle files so Spotlight can be used to find them.

Spotlight Integration

Apple's Mac OS X 10.4, known as Tiger, includes a system-wide search functionality named Spotlight. Spotlight frees you from remembering where files are stored by means of a powerful indexing engine. When installed Tiger provides support for many common file formats.

Third party applications like Black Ink that utilize special file formats like AcrossLite must provide assistance to Spotlight in order to properly index files. Support for Spotlight is bundled with Black Ink and you need only run Black Ink once for indexing of crossword puzzles to occur. After the initial run any new puzzles will be indexed automatically as long as Black Ink is still installed on the computer.

Search Examples

Black Ink provides Spotlight with puzzle title, author, and copyright information. In addition all puzzles are identified as being in AcrossLite format. It is possible to perform searches using any or all of these items.

Finding All Puzzles

To locate all the crossword puzzles on your computer you can simply enter "AcrossLite" (without quotes) into the Spotlight search field.

Finding Puzzles By Author

To locate all the crossword puzzles by a particular author you can simply enter the author's name into the Spotlight search field.

More Information

For more information about Spotlight visit Apple's website at <http://www.apple.com/macosx/features/spotlight/>

4

4. Purchasing Black Ink

This chapter explains how to purchase Black Ink.

Black Ink is offered as a free download on a trial evaluation basis. It will operate fully-functional for 30 days. If you wish to continue using Black Ink, you simply purchase a registration code from Red Sweater Software to unlock the evaluation copy of the application.

Black Ink will function even past the trial expiration, but will only run for a period of 10 minutes at a time, and will not allow printing. This gives you the opportunity to continue evaluating Black Ink after the evaluation period is over, so you can make your purchasing decision.

When you decide to purchase Black Ink, simply select the “Purchase Black Ink” menu item from the main Black Ink application menu. A dialog will appear with further instructions.

You may also purchase Black Ink and any other Red Sweater products by visiting the Red Sweater Store on the web:

<http://www.red-sweater.com/store/>

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