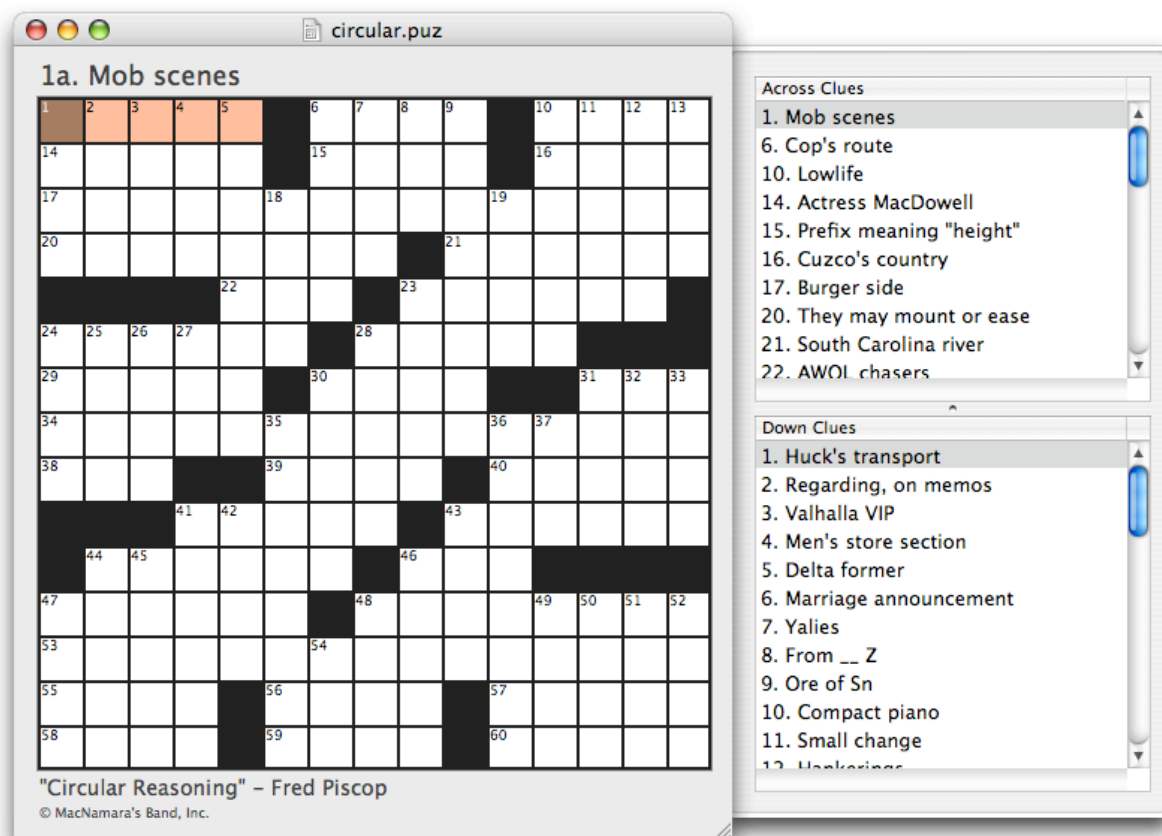# Black Ink

User Guide

1

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 focused square is identified by a darker shade of the highlight color. The grid itself is composed of white and black squares. White squares are active and can contain user typed characters. Black squares 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 square will cause the focused square to change to that square. If the click occurs within the current focused square bounds then the orientation of the selected word may change. The orientation will not change if a valid selection is not possible for that square in that direction. This is frequently the case in cryptic crossword puzzles where only about 25% of the squares are part of both across and down words. When the focused square changes the selected word will also change, provided the new focused square is not a square 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 focused square 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 focused square will jump to the first empty square 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 focused square square with that letter and to move the focused square to the next empty square in the word. This
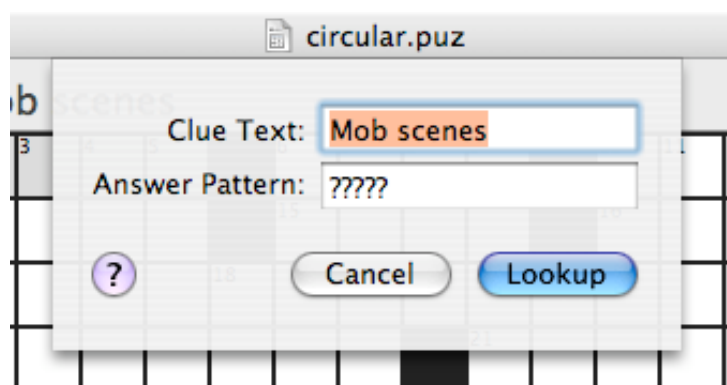
movement can be disabled or modified. (See the Preferences section of the Configuration chapter.) You can also move the focused square using the arrow keys. When navigating with arrow keys, the selected orientation and word can be changed by altering the direction of movement from horizontal to vertical 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 square below the current focused square), the selection orientation will change to down instead of across. By default, the focused square 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 focused square through inactive squares 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 square will change to the first square 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.
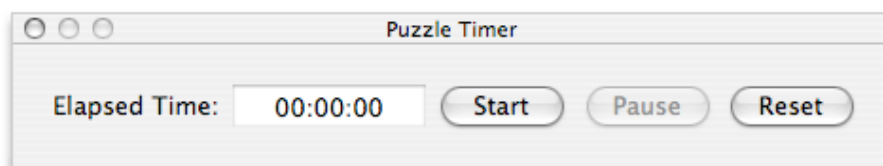
OneAcross.com Lookup

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 described in detailed below.

Black Ink menu

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

Menu Item	Purpose
About Black Ink	Displays credits and information about Black Ink.
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 file must be an Across Lite format file whose name ends with ".puz".

Menu Item	Purpose
Open as Unsolved…	Opens a crossword puzzle file, clearing any previous answers before displaying it. Useful for resolving a previously completed puzzle.
Open Recent	Opens a recently opened crossword puzzle file as selected from its sub menu. The list of recent items can be reset by selecting "Clear Menu."
Close	Closes the active puzzle window.
Save	Saves the active puzzle window with its existing name.
Save As…	Saves the active puzzle window, prompting for the location and name of the resulting puzzle file.
Revert to Saved	Reverts the active puzzle window 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. Page Setup also contains Black Ink-specific printing options. See the "Print Options" section in the Configuration chapter for more information.
Print…	Prints the active puzzle window, 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 window.

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 effect of a previous Undo action.
Cut Word	Cuts the active word, causing the squares to be emptied and the cut text to be added to the system pasteboard.

Menu Item	Purpose
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 squares to be emptied.
Enter Multiple Letters	For special puzzles that require multi-letter answers in some squares, this menu item facilitates the entry of such answers.

View menu

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

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 window.

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 letter at the focused square to the correct answer, if known. The square will be marked as checked, according to the Square State appearance preferences.
Check Current Word	Performs "Check Current Letter" on each square in the focused word.
Check Entire Puzzle	Performs "Check Current Letter" on each square in the entire puzzle.
Reveal Current Letter	Reveals the correct answer for the focused square, and marks the character as having been revealed. The square will be marked as revealed, according to the Square State appearance preferences. Once a square has been revealed it cannot be changed.
Reveal Current Word	Performs "Reveal Current Letter" on each square in the focused word.
Reveal Incorrect Letters	Performs "Reveal Current Letter" on each square in the puzzle which currently has an incorrect answer.
Reveal Entire Puzzle	Performs "Reveal Current Letter" on each square in the entire puzzle.
OneAcross.com Lookup…	Displays the OneAcross Lookup prompt, 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 Black Ink's various windows.

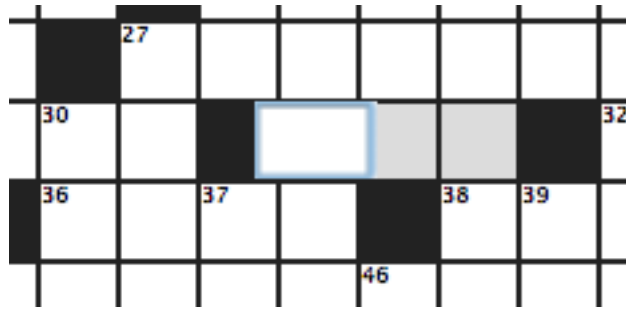| Menu Item	Purpose
Minimize Window	Shrinks the puzzle window and places it in the Dock.
Zoom	Toggles the window size between the largest reasonable size for the current screen, and the size you last set the window to.
Web Puzzle Chooser	Displays the menu of web puzzle sources available, in an easily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

Help Menu

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

Menu Item	Purpose
Black Ink User Guide	Displays this user guide.
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 application, addressed to Red Sweater Support.

Multi-Letter Input

Some crossword puzzles are created with themes that require multiple letters in a single square. Typing a letter in a square normally advances the input location to the next square 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 square 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 square answers the check and reveal functionality will take that information into account.

2

2. Configuration

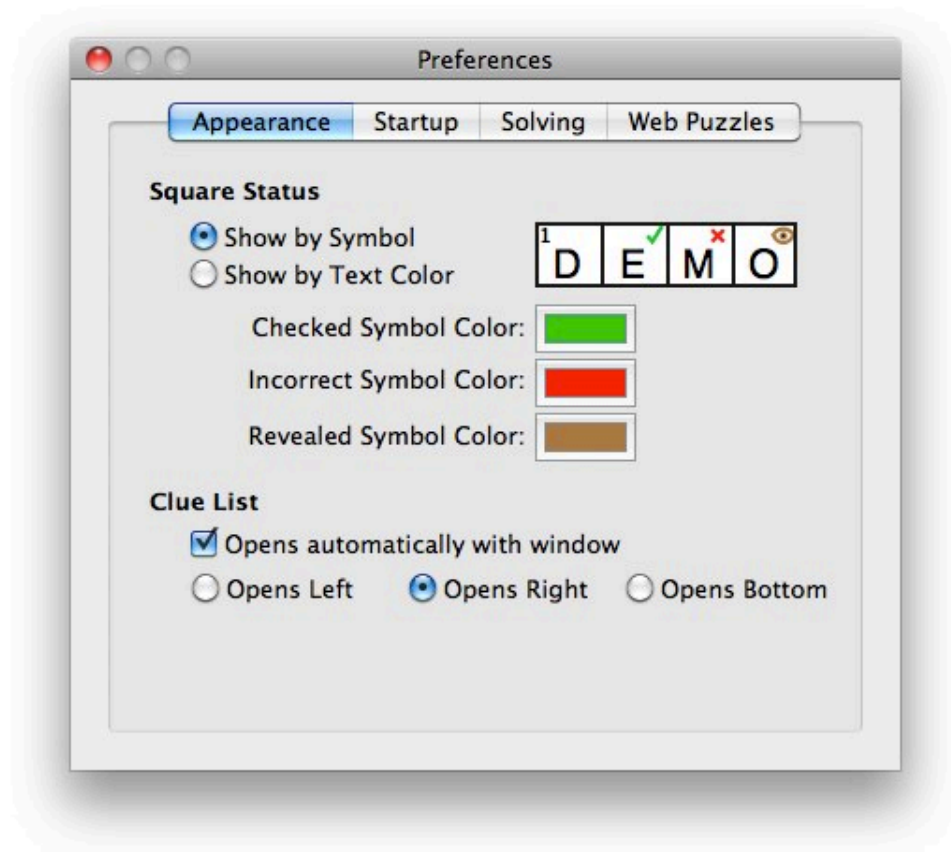This chapter details the configuration of Black Ink.

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

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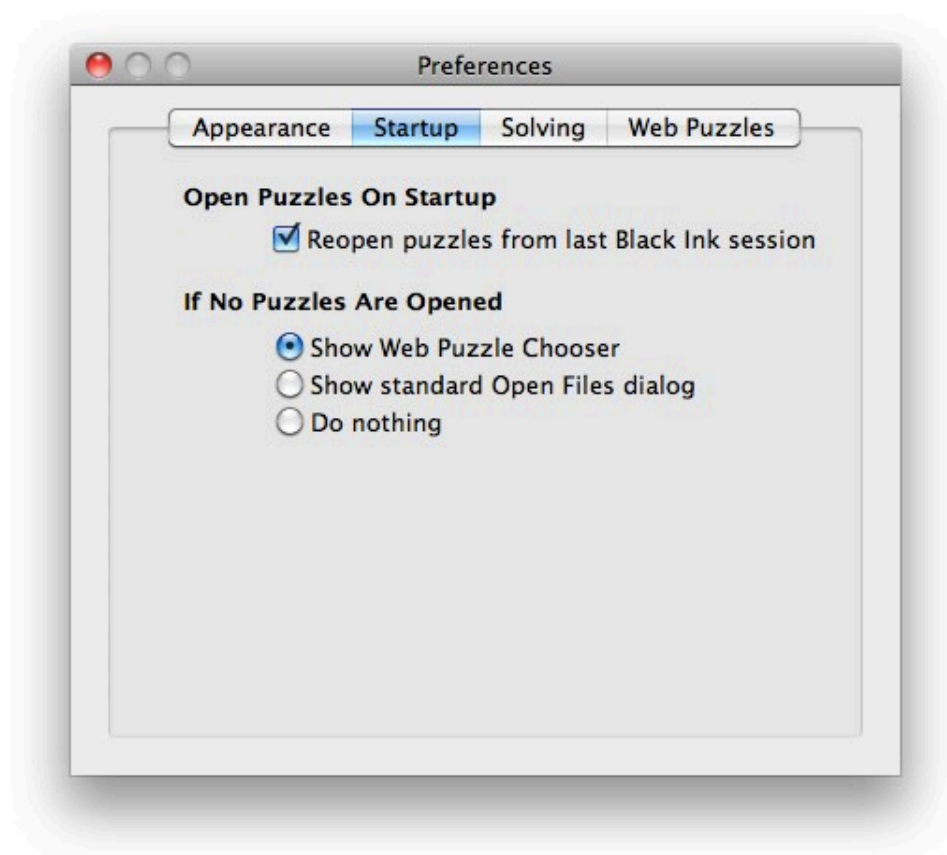
A "Checked" square is one whose value has been confirmed as the correct answer, after having been previously marked "Incorrect" by one of the "Check" menu items in the "Solution" menu.

A "Revealed" square 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 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 to automatically appear 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.
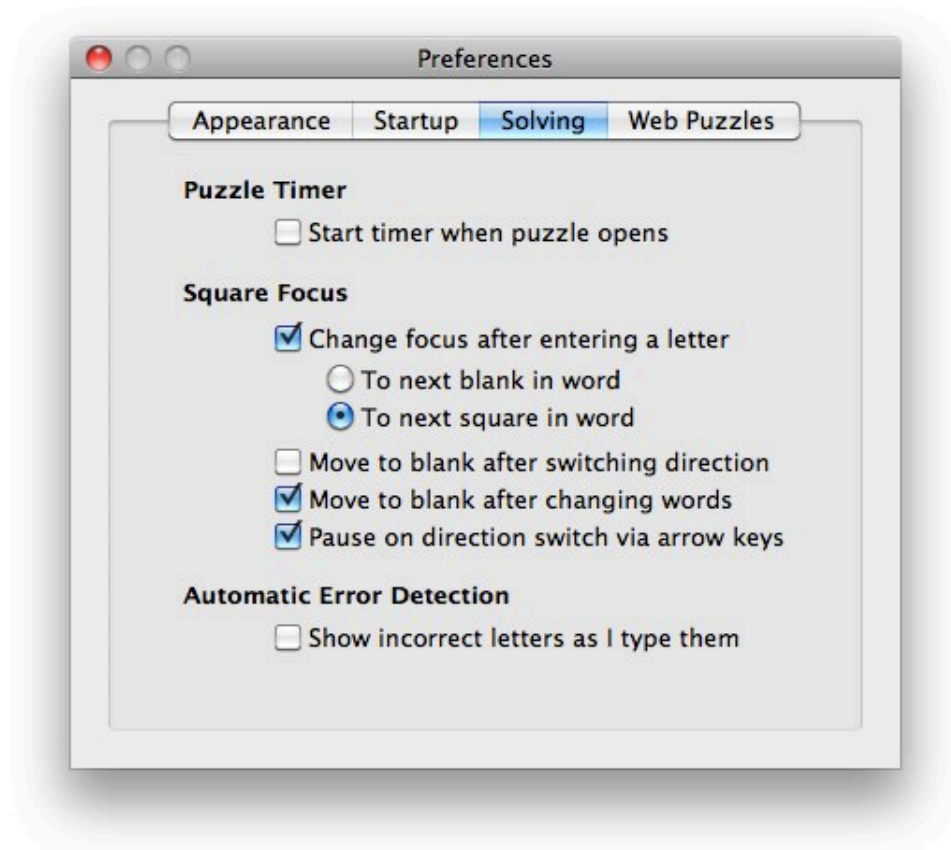

Enable the "Open Puzzles On Startup" option if you want puzzles windows that are left open in Black Ink when you quit to automatically reappear when you open Black Ink again.

If you disable automatic reopening of puzzles, or if none were open the last time you quit Black Ink, the application presents the Web Puzzle Chooser. If you would prefer to have Black Ink present a standard file chooser dialog, change the setting as desired.

Solving Preferences
Solving preferences include options for the puzzle timer, automatic error correction, and for adjusting the mechanics of square focus 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 Square Focus section is used to control how the focused square changes when various actions occur. The "Change focus after entering a letter" checkbox enables or disables the selection of a movement mechanism. If this checkbox is unchecked, the focused square will not change when a letter is typed on the keyboard; you will move the focused square manually with the mouse or with arrow keys. If the checkbox is checked, one of two mechanisms will be used to determine how the focused square changes. The "To next blank in word" option causes the focused square to change to the next blank square in the word, or simply to the next square if there are no more blank squares. If "To next square in word" is selected, the focused square will always change to the next square in the word, regardless of its content.

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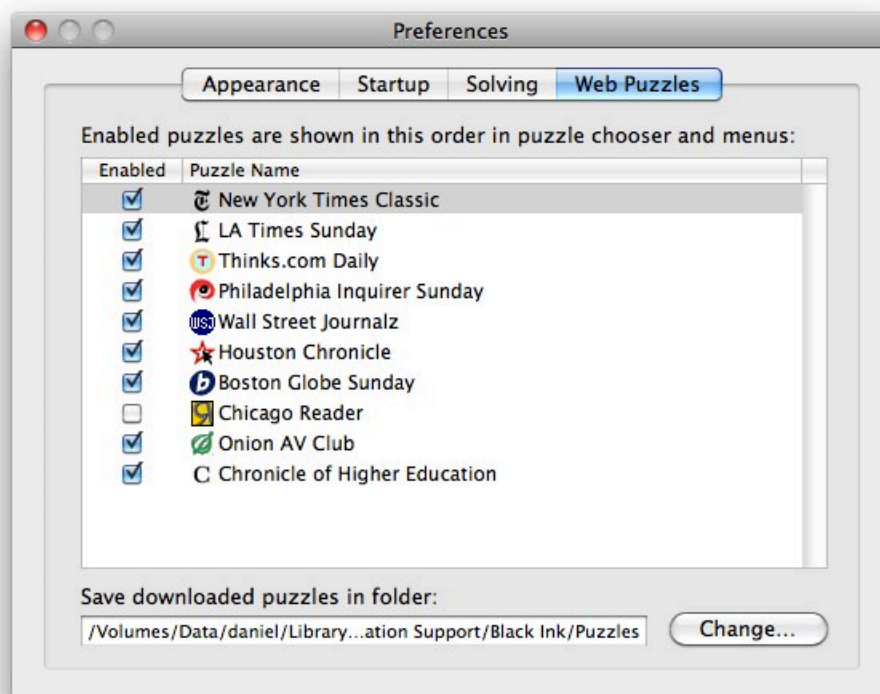
"Move to blank after changing words" causes the focused square to move to the first blank square in a word after you move to a new word using tab, shift-tab, return, or by mouse-clicking an item from the clue list.

"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 focused square 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 square in the word.

"Show incorrect letters as I type them" allows you to be alerted immediately when you make a mistake in solving a puzzle. This preference is not applicable to scrambled puzzles.

Web Puzzles
Use the Web Puzzles pane to manage the list of puzzles that Black Ink knows how to download on your behalf. Puzzles that are checked as "Enabled" appear in both the Web Puzzle Chooser and in the Open Web Puzzle menu.

The Web Puzzle downloads folder identifies the area on your disk where newly down-loaded 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.

Print Options

Black Ink provides support for a variety for printing-related options. These options are accessed in a slightly different manner depending on the version of Mac OS X you are using. On version 10.6 and later, these options are accessible from right within the Print panel, accessible by selecting "Print" from the "File" menu at the top of the screen. Click the blue button immediately to the right of the printer name popup, to expand the print panel and reveal Black Ink's custom options.

On Mac OS X 10.5 and earlier, the same options can be accessed within the "Page Setup" menu item in the "File" menu.

and earlier, access 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 will 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
Mac OS X 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 Across Lite 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/

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