

DeepTools 1.0 for El Capitan, Sierra & High Sierra

Release Notes

Howard Oakley <https://eclecticlight.co>

These release notes describe the features of **DeepTools**, a suite of three tools for enhancing access to versions of your documents. Together, they ensure that you retain access to previous versions of documents when you copy/duplicate or move documents, even to Linux/Unix and Windows systems.

Almost seven years ago, OS X 10.7 Lion introduced a new system which enabled apps to autosave documents, and to support multiple versions of documents. At first these features were only available in Apple's apps, but have since become common across many third-party apps too.

Oddly, versions are lost from documents in many common situations. Make a copy of a document, and the copy loses all previous versions. Move the document from one Mac to another using iCloud Drive, or across to most external storage media, and previous versions will also be stripped. **DeepTools** make true 'deep' copies of items which retain all existing versions, preserving them wherever your documents go, even when you send them by email.

What you need

- A Mac running El Capitan, Sierra or High Sierra. These releases have been built to be fully compatible with High Sierra, including the APFS file system, and with El Capitan.
- A copy of the latest release of DeepTools from <https://eclecticlight.co/downloads/> (This is delivered by secure HTTPS download.)

Getting started

DeepTools comes compressed as a Zip file, which you should decompress, and move the apps to your preferred folder, such as /Applications. They are not fussy where they are run from, though.

DeepTools use my developer code signature, so should run normally first time after installation. If they do not, you should still be able to use them safely. Instead of double-clicking one of them to run it the first time, select the app icon in a Finder window, and use the Finder's **Open** command to run it. You will be prompted to confirm that you want to open it: click on the button to say that you do. After that first use, on that Mac, you should be able to use it normally. If you are told that it is damaged or the signature is incorrect, please contact me.

Use

All three apps can process documents given to them by either of two methods:

- **drag and drop** the item onto the app's icon in the Finder, Dock, etc.
- open the item using the **Open** command in the app's File menu.

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Once opened, you will be prompted to save the converted document using a normal File Save dialog. When you have done that, a window will remain on display containing details of the success or any errors encountered. Close that window using the normal controls.

DeepCopy saves a duplicate of the document, complete with all its current versions. Use that to copy a document to another HFS+ or APFS volume, or to make a copy in any folder on the same volume. You should not normally need to use DeepCopy with iCloud Drive, although it works perfectly well there too, if you wish.

To move documents with all their versions to another Mac (or other system) over iCloud Drive, to copy a document with its versions to a volume which isn't in HFS+ or APFS format (such as a USB memory stick in a FAT format), or to another system altogether, use **DeepArchive** to create an archive folder of all the versions and move those. On the other Mac, run **DeepUnarchive** to reconstitute the folder into a document with all its versions intact.

DeepCopy

DeepCopy does what its name says: it makes a 'deep' copy of a document which includes all its current versions. It is ideal for:

- making a copy of a document on a different volume, such as an external drive formatted in either Mac Extended (HFS+) or Apple File System (APFS) format;
- making a duplicate of a document on the same volume, in the same or a different folder.

You can also use it to make a copy of a document to iCloud Drive, although those versions will then only be accessible to the Mac which copied them there. To share a deep copy, you need to use DeepArchive and DeepUnarchive.

When the copy is complete, the small document window in DeepCopy should display text similar to:

```
Saved copy of IntroducingPrecize1.0b4a.rtf as IntroducingPrecize1.0b4a-Copy.rtf
```

DeepArchive

The combination of DeepArchive with DeepUnarchive can move documents complete with their versions to any other location, including cloud storage, shared storage on a network (NAS), and non-Mac systems.

DeepArchive creates a folder, into which it saves each version in turn, numbering the files so that the last contains the current active version of the document. For example, the folder might contain:

```
IntroducingPrecize1.0b4a000.rtf  
IntroducingPrecize1.0b4a001.rtf  
IntroducingPrecize1.0b4a002.rtf  
IntroducingPrecize1.0b4a003.rtf  
IntroducingPrecize1.0b4a004.rtf
```

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Release Notes

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Each saved file is complete. In this example, each is a full RTFD document which you can open and edit. When they are reassembled back into a document with versions by DeepArchive, the file numbered 000 will be the first version, and that with the highest number, here 004, will be the last and current version.

You can use this collection of files to reduce the number of versions stored in the document you make from the archive. DeepArchive does *not* require numbers to be consecutive, and simply adds the remaining versions in sorted order. However, if you change their names so as to alter their order, the resulting versions will also be out of sequence.

On non-Mac systems, you can use these files as a version history, even though a system may not have any support for versions. You can of course compress the folder into a Zip or other archive, send it by email, etc.

When DeepArchive completes creating an archive folder successfully, it will show a message similar to

```
Saved archive of IntroducingPrecize1.0b4a.rtf to IntroducingPrecize1.0b4a-Copy2-rtfd
```

DeepUnarchive

DeepUnarchive is the odd app out as it opens not a document or file, but a *folder* containing versions just like those made by DeepArchive. It reads in each in turn, saving them as consecutive versions, making the last item the current version, which is the document you see in the Finder.

If you add files to the Archive folder, they will be saved as versions too, in the sorting order. The only exceptions are macOS hidden files with names starting with a period/stop character, which are ignored.

Because DeepUnarchive performs a more complex task, it provides a more detailed report, such as:

```
UnArchiving the files:
IntroducingPrecize1.0b4a000.rtf IntroducingPrecize1.0b4a001.rtf
IntroducingPrecize1.0b4a002.rtf IntroducingPrecize1.0b4a003.rtf
IntroducingPrecize1.0b4a004.rtf
Added /Users/hoakley/Library/Mobile Documents/com~apple~CloudDocs/backup1/
IntroducingPrecize1.0b4a-Copy-rtfd/IntroducingPrecize1.0b4a000.rtf
Added /Users/hoakley/Library/Mobile Documents/com~apple~CloudDocs/backup1/
IntroducingPrecize1.0b4a-Copy-rtfd/IntroducingPrecize1.0b4a001.rtf
Added /Users/hoakley/Library/Mobile Documents/com~apple~CloudDocs/backup1/
IntroducingPrecize1.0b4a-Copy-rtfd/IntroducingPrecize1.0b4a002.rtf
Added /Users/hoakley/Library/Mobile Documents/com~apple~CloudDocs/backup1/
IntroducingPrecize1.0b4a-Copy-rtfd/IntroducingPrecize1.0b4a003.rtf
```

```
UnArchiving complete.
```

Note that the last file in the folder is used to create the current document, so is not listed among those ‘added’, which only applies to those documents which are turned into previous versions. If you have made changes to the archive folder, this information should help you understand any problems which might have arisen.

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Revisionist

DeepTools provides a suite of tools to copy and move documents, but does not let you remove unwanted versions or perform other maintenance on versions, except by editing the archive folder. If you want access to more features to work with versions on macOS, please download my free app Revisionist, available from <https://eclecticlight.co/downloads/>

Limitation

Each of these tools is also intended to be offered as a Finder Service, enabling you to select file(s) in the Finder and use its contextual menu to process them directly. Although each may offer itself as a Service, the current versions probably won't yet open any files when used as a Service. If you find this annoying, you can disable them from Services in the normal way, through the Keyboard pane.

Change list

DeepTools 1.0:

- code checked and rebuilt for release.

DeepTools 1.0b1:

- initial release, without function as a Service
- fixed bugs in support/macOS 10.13.4 for drag and drop in DeepArchive.

15 May 2018.