SignWriter® Computer Program v.4.4

Getting Started

Before You Install

If You Have An IBM or Compatible...

1. SignWriter is an MS-DOS program. It is not designed for Windows. If you have Windows installed on your hard disk, there is a way to exit the Windows program to access MS-DOS. To learn how to access MS-DOS, refer to the Help Files, or manual, for Windows. SignWriter does not use a mouse.

2. SignWriter requires 640 K bytes of memory and CGA, EGA, or VGA graphics. A hard disk is required, if you wish to access dictionary files.

3. SignWriter works best with laser printers, and offers a variety of print formats for postscript. **SignWriter 4.4 has a new feature:** Files can now be **"printed to postscript files"** on your hard disk. Then, with the Adobe Acrobat program, the postscript files can be turned into **Acrobat .PDF files**. Your SignWriter documents will be able to be read universally as Acrobat files, on the internet, and by people using different kinds of computers.

4. If your computer uses Hercules graphics, then SignWriter will work only if you have a special program called SIMCGA. The name "SIMCGA" means "Simulate CGA Graphics". This program makes your Hercules graphics card work with CGA graphics programs. SIMCGA is available in software and computer stores.

5. You have full technical support and we are glad to help you!

Email
DAC@SignWriting.org

SignWriting Web Site:
www.SignWriting.org

If You Have a Macintosh...

The SignWriter Computer Program, version 4.4, is an MS-DOS program. It works beautifully on a Macintosh, combined with special software that makes it possible to run MS-DOS software on the Macintosh.

There are two such Macintosh programs to choose from, which you can purchase at any computer software store or on the web:

1. "Virtual PC" for the Power Mac
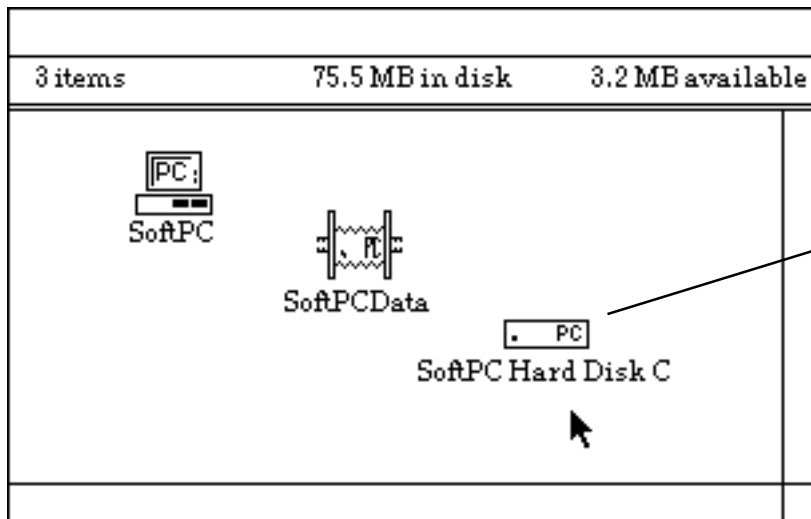2. "SoftPC Universal" for all Macintoshes

VIRTUAL PC FOR THE POWER MAC
With Connectix Virtual PC you can run MS-DOS software on your Macintosh. It is a Power Mac application incuding a full version of Microsoft Windows.

SOFTPC FOR ALL MACINTOSHES
SoftPC Universal or SoftWindows are two versions of SoftPC. You do not need SoftWindows to run SignWriter. SignWriter is not a Windows program, it is a DOS program. But if you own SoftWindows, just exit Windows to work in MS-DOS.

Once you own VirtualPC or SoftPC, you will need to install it on your Mac. Installing SoftPC creates a new file called **Hard Disk C** on your Macintosh hard disk. This file is essentially an MS-DOS disk stored on your Macintosh:

Open the **Hard Disk C** file by double-clicking on its icon. You are now in MS-DOS. You can now install SignWriter.

Installing SignWriter

On Your Hard Disk

The SignWriter package comes with several disks, including a **Program** Disk, **Dictionary** Disk, **Other Countries** Disk, and **Lessons** Disk.

Important

To install SignWriter, you need to know how to copy files and make directories in MS-DOS. If you do not know how to do this, then **see pages 12 and 13 in this manual**. You can also find instruction in the manuals that came with your computer, or ask someone to help you.

TO INSTALL...

1. Be sure you are in MS-DOS. You may have to exit Windows.

2. On your hard drive, create a new directory called **SW**, which stands for **S**ign**W**riter.

3. Be sure you are in your **SW** directory.

4. Put the **Program** disk in the floppy disk drive.

5. Copy all files from the **Program** disk into the **SW** directory.

6. Eject the **Program** disk. Insert the **Dictionary** disk.

7. Copy all files from the **Dictionary** disk into your **SW** directory.

8. Eject the **Dictionary** disk. Insert the **Lessons** disk.

9. Copy all files from the **Lessons** disk into your **SW** directory.

10. You should now have the following files in your **SW** directory:

SW.EXE	SWxxx.MSG	SWxxx.DIN
SW.SYM	SWxxx.KEY	DIFFERENT .SGN FILES
DICT.EXE	SWxxx.DIC	

11. SignWriter (for your country) is now installed on your hard drive.

12. Next you should set up SignWriter to work with your printer. See the next section, **Setting Up SignWriter**.

Setting Up SignWriter

To Work With Your Printer

This section assumes that you have installed SignWriter, following the instructions in the previous section.

1. To set up SignWriter to work with your printer, be sure you are in your SW directory on your hard drive. To start the SignWriter program, type**:**

    sw

2. Press Return (or Enter).

3. This should appear:

```
MS-DOS Prompt - SW                                      _ □ ✕
Auto         ▼   □ 📋 📋 ✛  📁📂  A

      C:\SW

      deaf1
      deaf2
      email
      fall95
      fall96                        S i g n W r i t e r
      germany
      grammar
      hamburg
      keyboard
      norway                           4.4   © 2000
      spring96
      spring97                    The Center for Sutton
      swbody                        Movement Writing
      swcont
      swdynam



     │ Open     New     Print     File     Directory     Setup     Quit
```
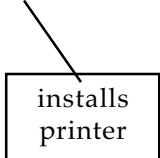
Note: If this does not appear, turn to the **SignWriter Reference Manual** in the fourth section of this notebook and read *Things You Should Know About* in Part 2.

4. The **Setup** command is used to install your printer:

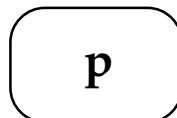**Open   New   Print   File   Directory   Setup   Quit**

installs printer

5. To access the Setup command, hold one finger on the **Alt** key, and at the same time press the **S** key (S for Setup):

Alt   **+**   **S**

6. The command line is replaced by the following message:

Setup | Printing   Country   Dictionary

7. Next, press the **P** key (for Printing):

p

8. The Setup command line is replaced by the Printing command line:

Setup | Printer   Interface   Format   Numbers   Lines

9. Press the **P** key again (for Printer). The following command line appears:

Setup | EpsonFX   Hewlett-Packard   *Postscript

10.   Press the **E** key if your printer is an Epson FX (old dot-matrix).
Press the **H** key if you have a "non-postscript" Laser printer.
Press the **P** key if you have a "postscript" Laser printer, OR...if you wish to print to a postscript file on your hard drive.

NOTE: If you own an InkJet Printer, choose H. If you have trouble printing from an InkJet Printer, there are solutions, which are explained in Manual 2.

After you do this, SignWriter's original command line appears:

> **Open   New   Print   File   Directory   Setup   Quit**

You just set up SignWriter to work with your printer. The next thing to do is set up SignWriter to work with your computer's printer interface.

11. The **Setup** command is also used to install your interface. To access the Setup command, press the **Alt** key, plus the **S** key (S for Setup).

12. The command line is replaced by the following message:

> **Setup | Printing   Country   Dictionary**

13. Press the **P** key (for Printing).

14. The Setup command line is replaced by the Printing command line:

> **Setup | Printer   Interface   Format   Numbers   Lines**

15. Press the **I** key (for Interface). The following command line appears:

> **Setup | 1--COM 1   2--COM 2   3--LPT 1   4--LPT 2   *5--File**

16.   Press the **1** key if your interface is COM 1.
Press the **2** key if your interface is COM 2.
Press the **3** key if your interface is LPT 1.
Press the **4** key if your interface is LPT 2.
Press the **5** key if you wish to print a postscript file (a .ps file)

Note: If you don't know which interface to choose, such as LPT1 or LPT2, see the manual that came with your printer. Each printer is different.

The fifth choice, **printing to a postscript file,** does not require a printer. Instead, when you choose to print, SignWriter will create a file on your hard

drive that ends with "**.ps**". The file can be used to create an Adobe Acrobat .pdf file, which opens in Acrobat Reader. For more information on printing to postscript, see Manual 2 in this notebook.
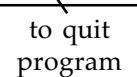
17. After you do this, SignWriter's original command line appears:

Open   New   Print   File   Directory   Setup   Quit

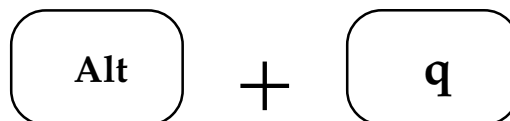You have now completed installation of your printer and interface.

18. To leave the SignWriter program, use the Quit command:

Open   New   Print   File   Directory   Setup   Quit

> to quit
> program

19. To access the Quit command, press the **Alt** key plus the **Q** key:

Alt **+** **q**

20. The command line is replaced by the following message:

Quit | Leave SignWriter? (Y/N)

21. Press the **Y** key (for Yes). After a few moments, the MS-DOS prompt reappears:

C:\SW>

22. To learn how to use SignWriter, turn to **Lessons in SignWriter**, the second section of this notebook. When you have completed the lessons, you can learn more about SignWriter by referring to **SignWriter-At-A-Glance** in the third section, and the **SignWriter Reference Manual** in the fourth section.

At the moment, SignWriter is only set up to work with your country. If you want to set up SignWriter to switch between different countries, you need to install the other countries on your hard disk. To do this, see the next section **Adding Other Countries**.

Adding Countries

Choose Different Languages

SignWriter is an international program. It works with languages from different countries. This section will teach you how to add other countries. Each country has a Country Code number:

132..........Belgian-Flemish	**505**..........Nicaragua
032..........Belgian-French	**047**..........Norway
055..........Brazil	**051**..........Peru
001..........Canada (English)	**351**..........Portugal
045..........Denmark	**027**..........South Africa
033..........France	**034**..........Spain
049..........Germany	**041**..........Switzerland
353..........Ireland	**046**..........Sweden
039..........Italy	**044**..........UK
052..........Mexico	**001**..........USA
031..........Netherlands	

The **Other Countries** disk includes four files for each country. These four files are necessary to access a country. For example, the country code for Denmark is 045. So the four files for Denmark are:

SW**045**.MSG

SW**045**.KEY

SW**045**.DIC

SW**045**.DIN

TO INSTALL ANOTHER COUNTRY

1. Be sure you are in your **SW** directory on your hard drive.

2. Put the **Other Countries** disk in the floppy disk drive.

3. Let us imagine that you wish to include Denmark, which is code 045. Copy all four files for Denmark from the **Other Countries** disk into your **SW** directory.

Lessons Online

On Disk or The Web

The **Lessons** disk includes basic Lessons in Sign Writing, and files already typed in SignWriter. Reading these Lessons and files will help, if you are new to SignWriting. If you print them out, they create a little manual. Some of the Lessons and files on the disk are:

swintro (introduction)
swhand (handshapes)
swcont (contact)
swmove (movement)
swface (facial expressions)
grammar (grammar lessons)
and so forth...

After you have copied all of the Lessons Files from your **Lessons** disk into your SW directory, then when you start the SignWriter program, by typing

sw

you will find the Lessons listed there. You can open them and read them on screen, or you can print them out. There are also four other manuals in this notebook for further instruction. The fifth manual, **About SignWriting**, teaches basic SignWriting symbols. Or learn SignWriting on our web site:

SignWriting Web Site:
www.SignWriting.org

Printing on Different Paper Sizes

A4 and US Letter Paper

The SignWriter computer program supports printing on both US letter and A4 paper size.

SignWriter is automatically set to print on the paper size that is used in your country.

To Switch Paper Sizes
1. When you installed SignWriter on your hard drive, you placed the files SW.EXE and DICT.EXE into your SW directory. Delete them.

2. Insert **Disk 6**, entitled **Paper Sizes**.

3. You will find four files on the disk:

SWUS.EXE	SignWriter Program for US paper
SWA4.EXE	SignWriter Program for A4 paper
DICTUS.EXE	Dictionary Manager for US paper
DICTA4.EXE	Dictionary Manager for A4 paper

4. If you want to print on US paper, then copy the files SWUS.EXE and DICTUS.EXE into your SW directory on your hard drive. If you want to print on A4 paper, then copy the files SWA4.EXE and DICTA4.EXE into your SW directory on your hard drive.

5. Eject the disk Paper Sizes, and store it in a safe place.

6. Now you need to rename your files. Rename the file SWxx.EXE to SW.EXE. Rename the file DICTxx.EXE to DICT.EXE.

You can now print using the new paper size. It is recommended that you use either the Hewlett-Packard or Postscript printing modes when printing on A4 paper.

For Those Who Do Not Know MS-DOS

Making Directories

To install **SignWriter**, you need to know how to make directories in MS-DOS. Below are instructions. If you have further questions, refer to your MS-DOS manual, **or ask someone to help you**.

Making A Directory in MS-DOS

1. Be sure you are in MS-DOS. You may have to exit Windows. In MS-DOS, you should be at the C: prompt:

C:\>

2. You want to create a new directory called **SW**, which stands for **S**ign**W**riter. How do you do this? Type

md \sw   (md stands for make directory) (there is a space between d and \ )

Then press the Return or Enter key.

3. To use your new **SW** directory, you need to switch to the directory. How do you do this? Type

cd \sw   (cd stands for change directory) (there is a space between d and \ )

Then press the Return or Enter key.

4. You should now be at this prompt:

C:\SW>

This means you are now in the **SW** directory on your C: drive.

5. From here, you can now copy files into your **SW** directory. See the next page for information on how to copy files.

For Those Who Do Not Know MS-DOS

Copying Files

To install **SignWriter**, you need to know how to copy files in MS-DOS. Below are instructions. If you have further questions, refer to your MS-DOS manual, **or ask someone to help you**.

Copying Files in MS-DOS

1. You should now be at this prompt:

C:\SW>

This means you are now in the **SW** directory on your C: drive.

2. From here, you want to copy files from a floppy disk into your **SW** directory. How do you do this?

3. Insert the floppy disk into the floppy disk drive. In some computers, the floppy drive is drive A:, in others, it is drive B: For the sake of this lesson, let us assume it is drive A:

4. You are still at this prompt:

C:\SW>

5. Type

copy a:*.*   (a: stands for the floppy disk drive) (*.* stands for "all files")

Then press the Return or Enter key.

6. All of the files from the floppy disk in drive A are now copied into your **SW** directory on your hard drive. Eject the floppy disk.

Shareware On A Floppy Disk

To Give To Friends

Installing The Shareware From a Floppy Disk in MS-DOS

To install SignWriter Shareware from a floppy disk, you need to know how to copy files and make directories in MS-DOS. If you do not know how to use MS-DOS, then refer to your MS-DOS manual, or see pages 12 and 13.

1. Be sure you are in MS-DOS. You may have to exit Windows.

2. On your hard drive, create a new directory called **SW**, which stands for **S**ign**W**riter.

3. Be sure you are in your **SW** directory.

4. Put the **Shareware** disk in the floppy disk drive.

5. Copy the file SW44.EXE from the **Shareware** disk into the **SW** directory.

6. Eject the **Shareware** disk.

7. Next you need to expand the SW44.EXE file, by typing   **SW44**

Then press the Return key. It takes time for all of the files to expand.

8. You now have a long list of files in your **SW** directory. Two files, SWINFO.TXT and MANUAL.DOC are accessible through any word processing program. You may want to open those files and print them, since they give instruction on how to use **SignWriter**.

9. All of the other files belong to the **SignWriter** program, which is a stand-alone program. To start **SignWriter**, type   **sw**

Then press the Return key. **SignWriter** opens on the screen. Use the Alt Key plus the first letter of a word at the bottom of the screen to access commands. The Alt key is replaced by the Option Key on the Macintosh.

Download SignWriter Shareware

On The World Wide Web

To Download SignWriter Shareware

Go to this web page to download:
http://www.SignWriting.org/catalog/sw128.html

De-Compressing & Installing The Downloaded Files

1. ZIP FILES: When you download SignWriter compressed as a Zip file, an icon named "sw44us.zip" will appear. Double-click on the icon to "un-zip" the file.*

*Note: There are several programs that unzip files in Windows, such as WinZip and UnZip. If you already have WinzZip or UnZip installed on your computer, then by double-clicking on the file icon, it will automatically "un-zip". Search "Help" in Windows for information on how to de-compress or extract compressed files.

2. EXE FILES: When you download SignWriter compressed as an EXE file, an icon named "sw44us.exe" will appear. Double-click on the icon to expand the file.
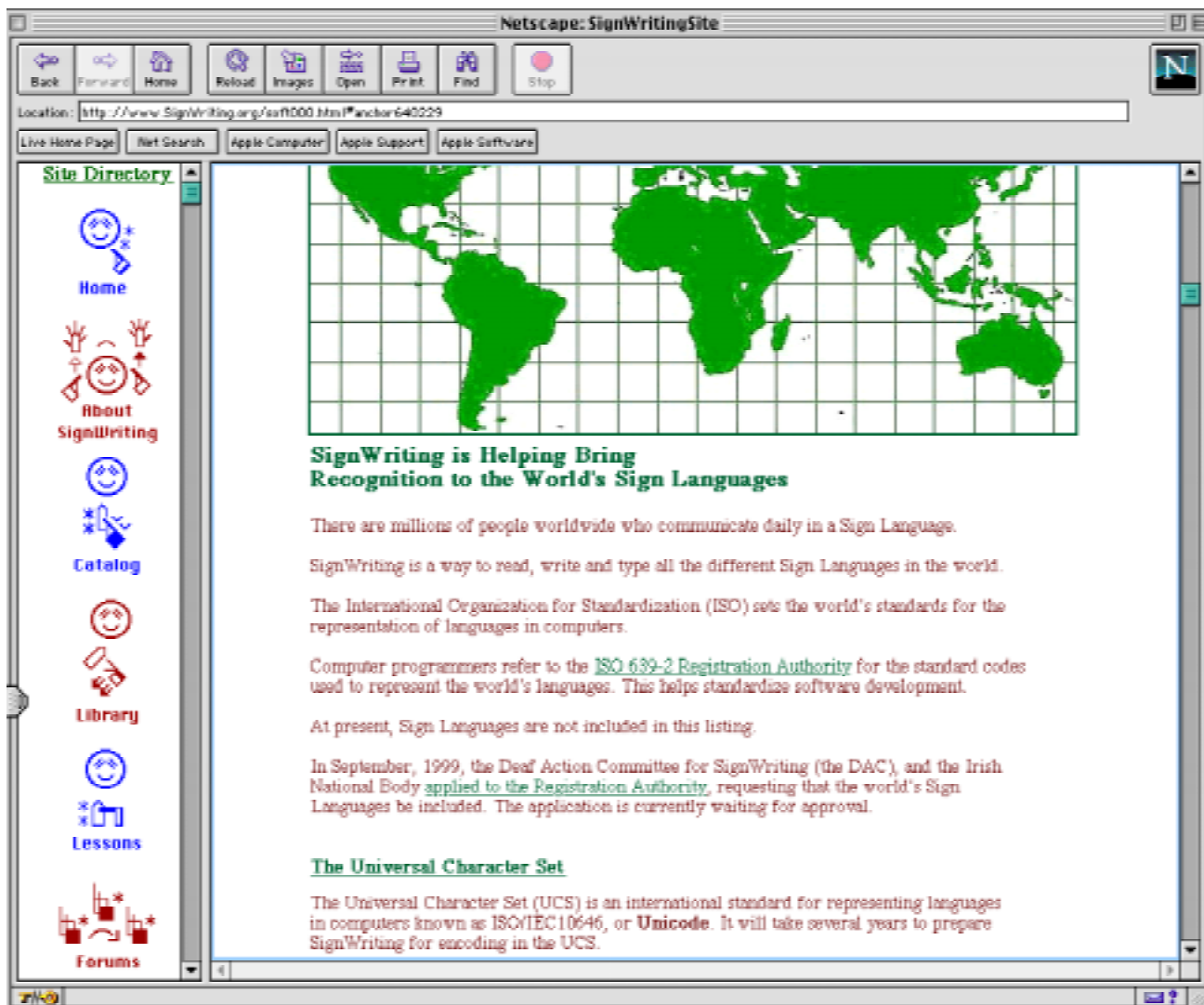
3. Once you have unzipped the file, you will find a folder or directory named "sw44us" on your hard drive. That stands for SignWriter 4.4 US version. This is the folder or directory that contains all of the SignWriter files. Rename the folder or directory "SW".

4. Look at the long list of files in your SW directory. Three files, README.TXT, SWINFO.TXT and MANUAL.DOC are accessible through any word processing program. You may want to open those files and print them, since they give instruction on how to use SignWriter. All of the other files belong to the SignWriter program, which is a stand-alone program.

5. To start SignWriter, be sure you are in your SW directory in MS-DOS. Type: sw

6. Then press the Return (or ENTER) key. SignWriter opens on the screen.

7. Use the Alt Key plus the first letter of a word at the bottom of the screen to access commands. Questions? For technical support, write to: DAC@SignWriting.org.

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Netscape: SignWritingSite

Location: http://www.SignWriting.org/ssft000.html#anchor640229

Live Home Page | Net Search | Apple Computer | Apple Support | Apple Software

Site Directory

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SignWriting is Helping Bring Recognition to the World's Sign Languages

There are millions of people worldwide who communicate daily in a Sign Language.

SignWriting is a way to read, write and type all the different Sign Languages in the world.

The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) sets the world's standards for the representation of languages in computers.

Computer programmers refer to the ISO 639-2 Registration Authority for the standard codes used to represent the world's languages. This helps standardize software development.

At present, Sign Languages are not included in this listing.

In September, 1999, the Deaf Action Committee for SignWriting (the DAC), and the Irish National Body applied to the Registration Authority, requesting that the world's Sign Languages be included. The application is currently waiting for approval.

The Universal Character Set

The Universal Character Set (UCS) is an international standard for representing languages in computers known as ISO/IEC10646, or **Unicode**. It will take several years to prepare SignWriting for encoding in the UCS.

The SignWriting Web Site
http://www.SignWriting.org

The SignWritingSite is an educational web site with over 300 web pages to explore. It includes a Library of Literature and free SignWriting Lessons Online. Ongoing courses are featured teaching: 1.Symbols 2.Penmanship 3.Grammar and 4.Reading. Special features are posted regularly by the system's inventor, Valerie Sutton. The Site also includes seven forums: the Sponsor's Forum, the Teacher's Forum, the Research Forum, the Linguistics Forum, the Software Forum and the SignWriting Email Forum. There are other sections, such as the SignWriting History Archives, Deaf Opinions on SignWriting, Questions & Answers, and web pages for the classrooms participating in the SignWriting Literacy Project. SignWriter Shareware and Fingerspelling Fonts can be downloaded free of charge, and a Catalog Online lists SignWriting publications.