

Lesson 5-10: Changing the Appearance of Mac OS X

Figure 5-17

The settings found in the Appearance preferences offer a variety of controls for changing the appearance of various screen elements.

Figure 5-18

Instead of the default blue color, you can change Mac OS X to highlight selected items in a different color.

Figure 5-19

The Desktop dialog.

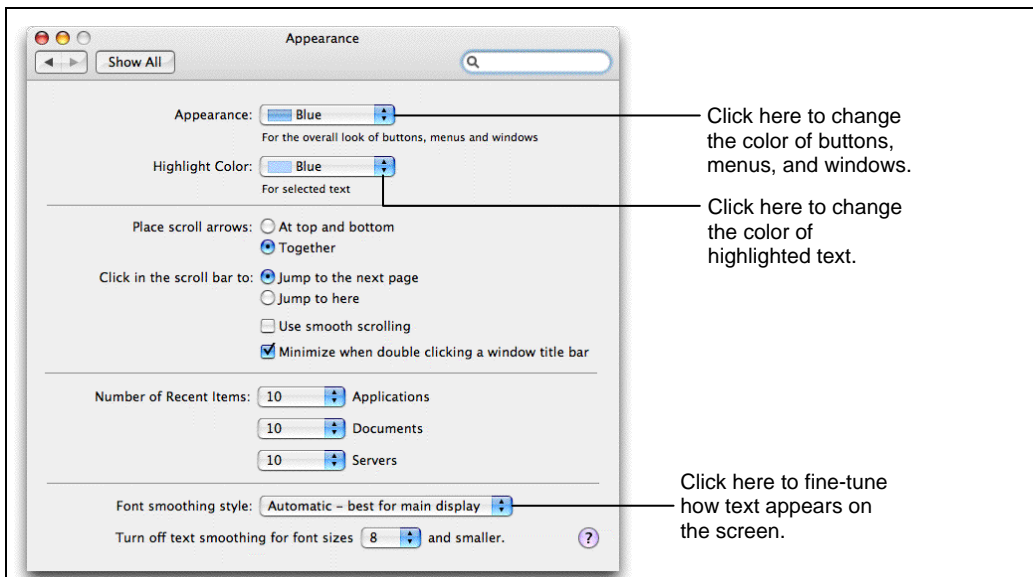


Figure 5-17

Click here to change the color of buttons, menus, and windows.

Click here to change the color of highlighted text.

Click here to fine-tune how text appears on the screen.



Appearance icon

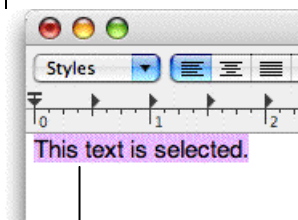


Figure 5-18

You can change the highlight color of selected text.

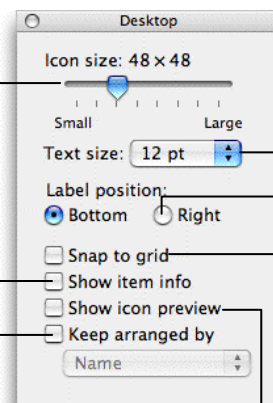


Figure 5-19

Drag the slider to make icons on the desktop larger or smaller.

Click here to adjust label size.

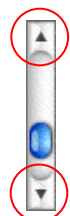
Select this option to show information about the item.

Click here to change the label position.

To organize your items by name, date, size, etc., click here and select an option from the menu.

Select this option to have icons arranged in rows or columns.

Select this option to have icons appear as a preview of the files' contents.



You can change Mac OS X so that the scroll buttons appear at the top and bottom of the scroll bar.

You can change the overall look of Mac OS X in several ways. This lesson will show you how you can change the color scheme used for buttons, menus, windows, and how to change the color of selected text. You will also learn how to adjust desktop icon and text size.

1. Click the **System Preferences** icon in the Dock.
The System Preferences window appears.
2. Click the **Appearance** preferences icon.

The settings for the Appearance preferences appear, as shown in Figure 5-17. This window should look familiar – we used it in a previous lesson to adjust how many items appeared in the Recent Items submenu.

Notice how all of the pop-up menus, radio buttons, and check boxes in the Appearance preferences are blue. Let's change this.

3. Click the **Appearance pop-up and select **Graphite** from the menu.**

The buttons and menus change to a gray color.

Let's switch back to the blue color scheme.

4. Click the **Appearance pop-up and select **Blue** from the menu.**

You can also change the highlight color for selected items, such as text.

5. Click the **Highlight Color pop-up and select **Purple** from the menu.**

Now anything that is selected will appear highlighted in purple, as shown in Figure 5-18.

You can also change the location of scroll buttons so that they appear at the top and bottom of the scroll bar instead of together at the bottom.

6. In the **Place scroll arrows section, click the **At top and bottom** option.**

Now your scroll buttons will appear at the top and bottom of the scroll bar.

Let's switch back to the default option.

7. Click the **Together option in the **Place scroll arrows** section.**

If the text on your screen looks fuzzy, blurry, or jagged, you can adjust the font smoothing style or change the size at which fonts are smoothed.

8. Click the **Font smoothing style pop-up.**

A menu of font smoothing options appears. Simply select an option from the menu to adjust font smoothing.

When text smoothing is turned on, small font sizes can be harder to read. To fix this, select a font size from the "Turn off text smoothing for font sizes" pop-up menu.

9. Close the **Appearance preferences window.**

The Appearance preferences window closes.

The last appearance feature we will show you is how to adjust the size of the icons and text that appears on your desktop.

10. Select **View → **Show View Options** from the **Finder** menu bar.**

The Desktop dialog appears, as shown in Figure 5-19.

To adjust icon size, all you have to do is drag the Icon size slider to the desired value.

11. Click and drag the **Icon size slider to the right, until **84 x 84** appears.**

Any icons you have on the desktop are enlarged.

Let's return our icon size to the default value.

12. Click and drag the **Icon size slider to the left, until **48 x 48** appears.**

To adjust the icon label size, simply click the Text size pop-up and select a size from the menu.

13. Close the **Desktop dialog.**

Other Ways to Open the Desktop Dialog:

- Control-click an empty area of the desktop and select **Show View Options** from the contextual menu.

Quick Reference

To Open the Appearance Preferences:

- Click the **System Preferences** icon in the Dock and click **Appearance**.

To Change the Color of Buttons, Menus, and Windows:

- Click the **Appearance** pop-up and select a color from the menu.

To Change the Color of Selected Text:

- Click the **Highlight Color** pop-up and select a color from the menu.

To Change the Size of Desktop Icons:

1. Select **View** → **Show View Options** from the menu.
Or...
Control-click the desktop and select **Show View Options** from the menu.
2. Drag the **Icon size slider** to the selected value.