

Lesson 5-11: Adding Wallpaper to the Desktop

Figure 5-20

The Desktop tab of the Desktop & Screen Saver preferences.

Figure 5-21

A desktop with the Lotus background applied.

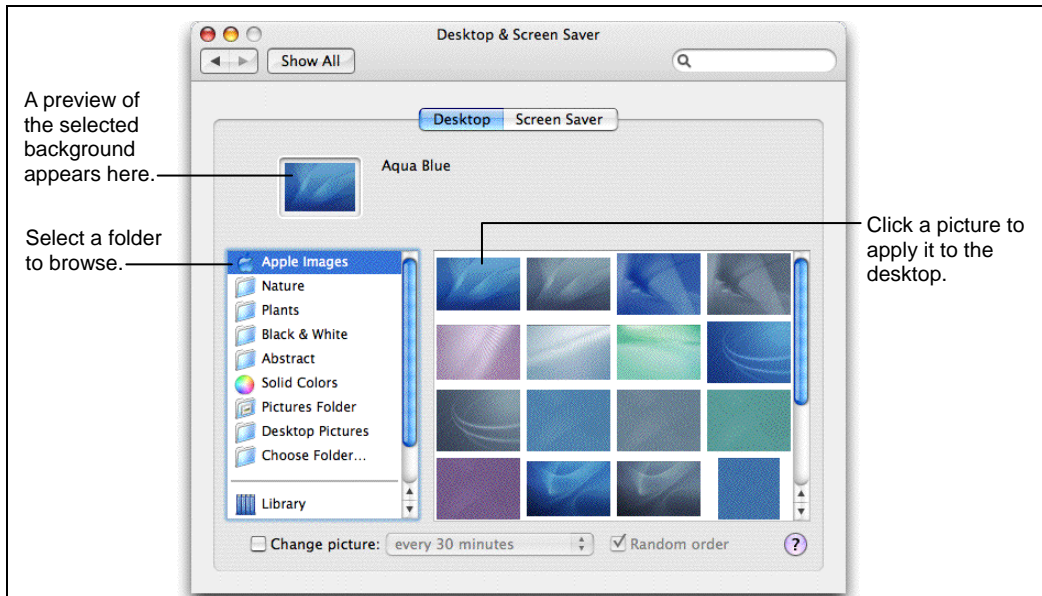


Figure 5-20



Figure 5-21

Other Ways to Open the Desktop & Screen Saver Preferences:

- Control-click the desktop and select **Change Desktop Background** from the contextual menu.

Most of us don't work in a sterile work environment—we decorate our desktops with pictures, plants, and Dilbert calendars. Similarly, Mac OS X lets you reflect your own personal tastes on your computer desktop. In this lesson, you will learn how to personalize your desktop by adding *wallpaper* to it. *Wallpaper* is a graphical picture you can stick to the desktop—the background area of the Mac OS X screen.

1. Click the **System Preferences** icon in the Dock.

The System Preferences window appears.

2. Click the Desktop & Screen Saver preferences icon.

The settings for the Desktop & Screen Saver preferences appear.

3. If necessary, click the Desktop tab.

The Desktop tab of the Desktop & Screen Saver preferences appears, as shown in Figure 5-20. This is where you can select a file to use as wallpaper.

4. Click the Plants folder in the Collection list.

The contents of the Plants folder appear. Once you find an image you like, click it to apply it to the desktop background.

5. Click the Lotus picture.

Let's take a look at our new desktop background.

6. Close the Desktop & Screen Saver preferences.

The Lotus background appears on your desktop, as shown in Figure 5-21.

You can also use personal pictures saved on your computer, such as a scanned photo of your family, as the desktop background.

7. Control-click the desktop and select Change Desktop Background from the contextual menu.

The settings for the Desktop & Screen Saver preferences appear.

8. Click Choose Folder in the Collection list and navigate to your Practice folder.

If you don't know where your practice files are located, ask your instructor for help.

9. Click the Paris file to select it.

The Paris image – or a portion of it – appears on your desktop. If an image's dimensions are not the same as the screen resolution, a pop-up menu will appear above the Collection list. To adjust how the image is displayed onscreen, click the pop-up and select one of the following options:

- **Fill screen:** Mac OS X fills the screen, to the best of its ability, with the selected image.
- **Stretch to fill screen:** Stretches the image so that it fills the entire screen.
- **Center:** Centers the image in the middle of your desktop. Use this setting if you have a large picture you want to display, such as a scanned picture.
- **Tile:** Makes a repeated pattern from the image. Use this setting for small to medium-sized pictures.

10. Click the Position pop-up and select Tile from the list.

A pattern of multiple Eiffel tower images appears on your desktop.

To have the desktop picture change on a regular basis, click the "Change picture" check box and select an interval from the pop-up menu. Keep in mind that selecting this option may affect the performance of certain applications, such as games, that use a lot of graphics.

If you find wallpaper distracting, it's easy to remove it altogether.

11. Click the Solid Colors folder in the Collection list and click the Gray color.

The wallpaper is removed from the screen.

12. Close the Desktop & Screen Saver preferences.

Desktop & Screen Saver icon



Lotus picture

Quick Reference

To Open the Desktop & Screen Saver Preferences:

- Click the **System Preferences** icon in the Dock and click the **Desktop & Screen Saver** icon.

Or...

- Control-click the desktop and select **Change Desktop Background** from the contextual menu.

To Change the Desktop Background:

- Select a folder from the Collection list and then click the image you want to use as your background.