

Automator

ApplePickers
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What is Automator?

- ✓ Released with Mac OS X 10.4 Tiger
- ✓ Received major overhaul with Mac OS X 10.5 Leopard
- ✓ Updated again with Mac OS X 10.6 Snow Leopard
- ✓ Very minor changes in Mac OS X 10.7 Lion and 10.8 Mountain Lion
- ✓ Further updated in OS X 10.14 to change Services into Quick Actions that can be added to Finder and Touch bar



What is Automator?

- ✓ Automates time consuming and repetitive tasks on your Mac
- ✓ No scripting or programming necessary
- ✓ Actions perform individual tasks
- ✓ Actions can be combined, like ingredients, into a recipe to form a workflow that run in sequence



The Benefits of Automator

- ✓ Brings the power of multi-application automation to the user level!
- ✓ With a little practice, everyone's a pro
- ✓ Lots of built-in actions
- ✓ Supported by some third-party apps



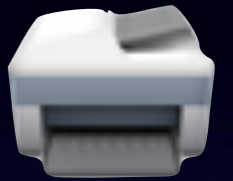
8 Types of Workflows

- ✓ **Workflow** which can be run from within Automator
- ✓ **Applications** are self-running workflows. Any files or folders dropped onto an Application will be used as input to the workflow
- ✓ **Quick Actions** are workflows that may be added to Finder, Touch Bar, and the Services menu. You can manage Quick Actions in System Preferences



Workflow Types

- ✓ **Print plugins** are workflows that are available in the print dialog. They accept PDF versions of the document being printed.
- ✓ **Folder Actions** are workflows that are attached to a folder in the Finder. Items added to the folder cause the workflow to run and are used as input to the workflow.
- ✓ **Calendar Alarms** are workflows that are run when triggered by an event in Calendar. They receive no input.



Workflow Types

✓ **Image Capture plugins** are workflows that are available in Image Capture. They receive image files as input.



✓ **Dictation Commands** are workflows that are run when triggered by Dictation. They receive no input.



What Automator's Good For?

- ✓ Automating simple tasks in one or multiple applications
- ✓ Batch manipulating files, music, photos, and more
- ✓ Adding custom functions to applications



What Automator's Not Good For?

- ✓ Automating super-complex tasks
- ✓ Analyzing situations and taking different courses of action
 - No decision making
 - No if statements or conditional statements

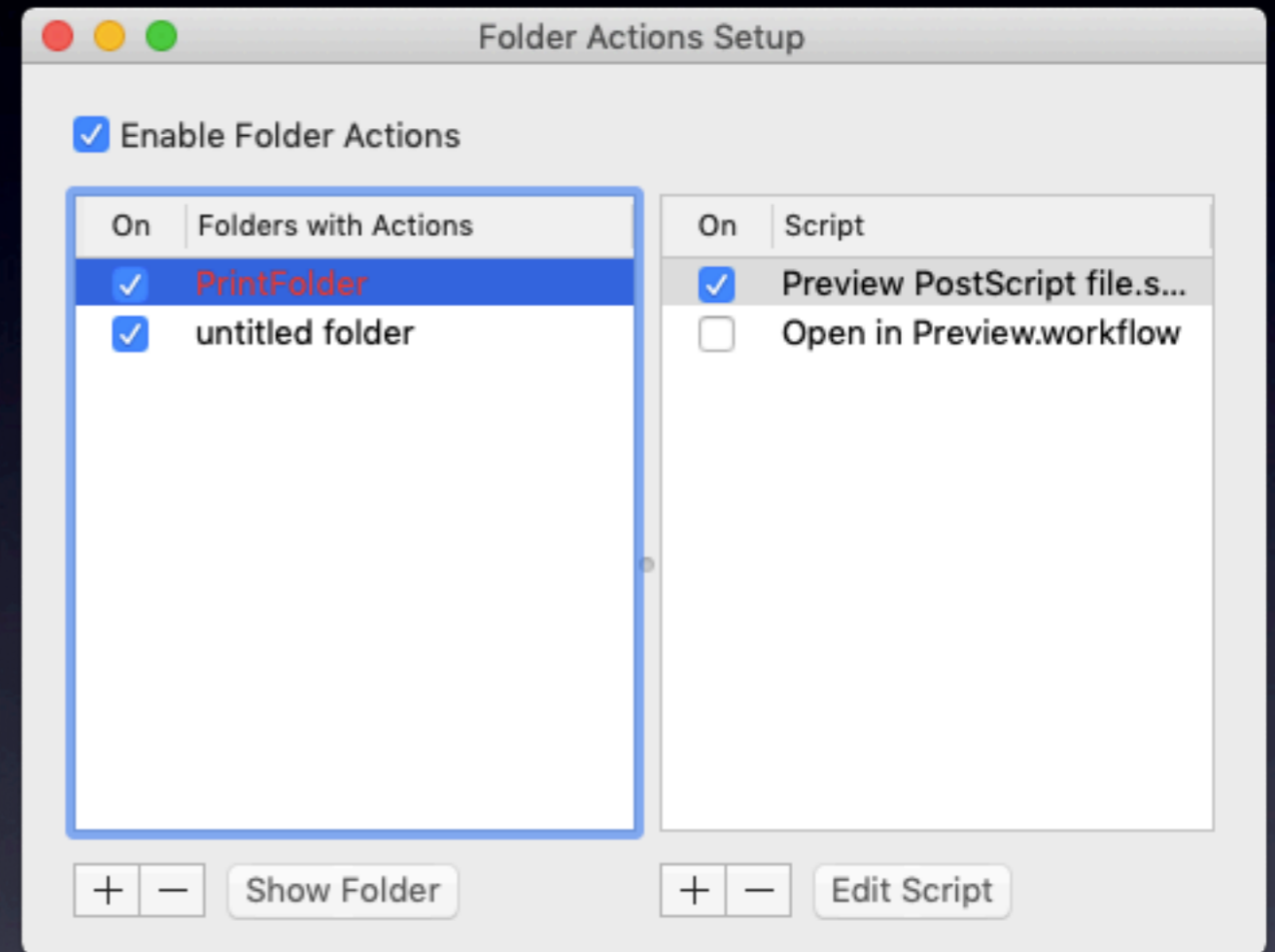
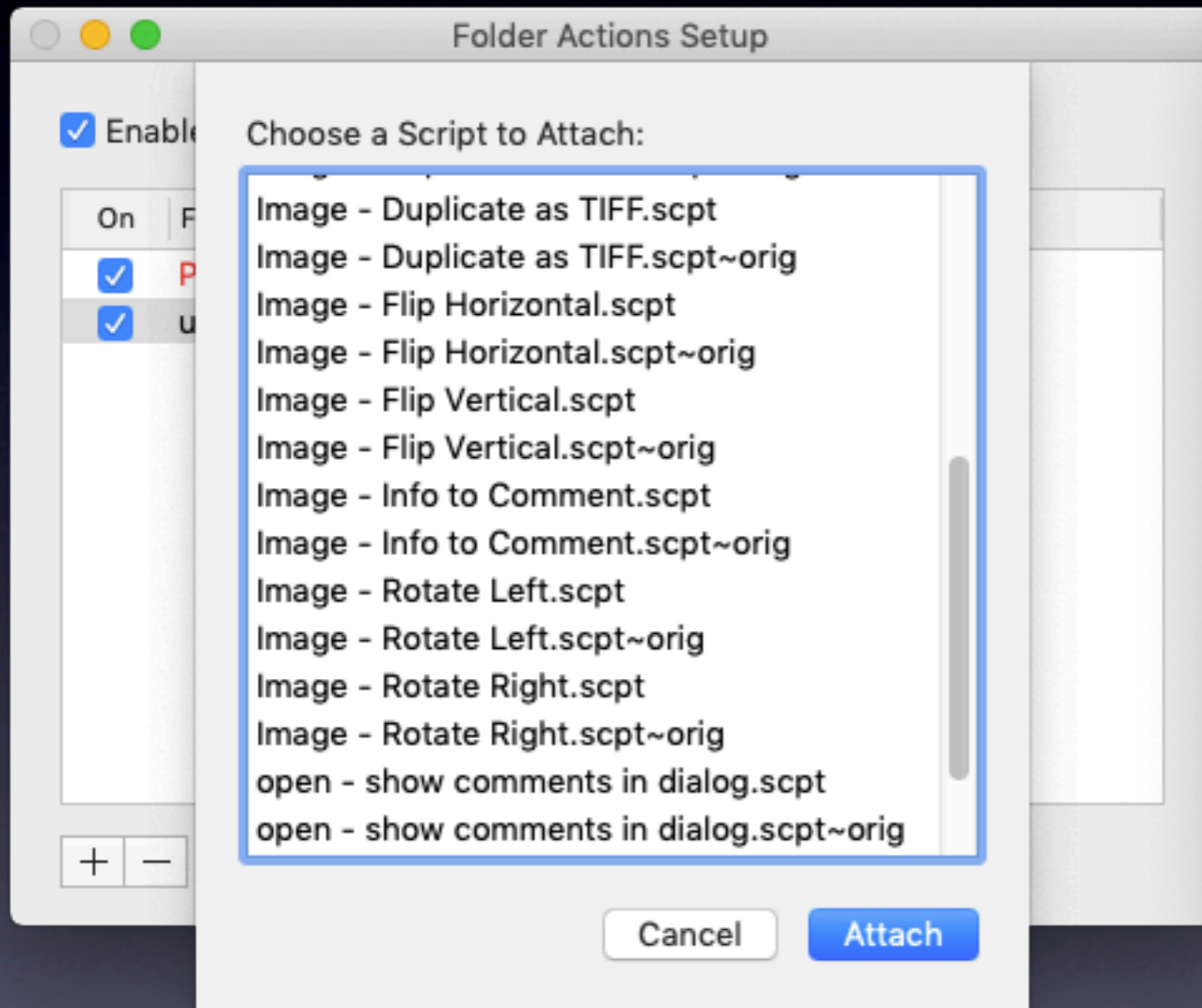


Limitations of Automator

- ✓ Limited actions available/not always well maintained
- ✓ Actions don't always "fit" together
- ✓ Limited looping capabilities
- ✓ No branching logic
- ✓ Not always intuitive



Folder Actions Setup...



Resources on the Web

- ✓ [Automator Website](#)
- ✓ [MacAutomation](#)
- ✓ [MacStories](#)

