

## Converting Your PC's .WAV Files for Use as Mac Sound Effects

The Mac doesn't let you associate your own sound effects to individual system events, as Windows does (Low Battery Alarm, Maximize, Minimize, and so on). It lets you choose *one* sound effect for all of its attention-getting purposes, using the Sound pane of System Preferences.

Still, there's nothing to stop you from harvesting all of the fun little sounds from your Windows machine for use as the Mac's error beep.

To find them on the PC, open My Computer, double-click your hard drive's icon, and open the WINDOWS or WINNT folder. If you see a huge "These files are hidden" message at this point, or if the window appears empty, click "Show the contents of this folder" or "View the entire contents of this folder" at the left side of the window.

Now open the Media folder to find the .wav files (standard Windows sound files).

Once you've copied them to your Mac, you can double-click one to listen to it. (It opens up in something called QuickTime Player, which is the rough equivalent of Windows Media Player. Press the Space bar to listen to the sound.)

To use these sounds as error beeps, follow these two steps:

1. **Open your hard drive icon. Open the Library folder. Choose File→New Folder, and create a folder named Sounds (if there isn't one already).**

This process assumes that you have an *administrator account* (page 323).

2. **Drag the .wav files into the Sounds folder.**

Now open System Preferences (by choosing its name from the  menu, for example). Click the Sound icon, click the Sound Effects tab, and then scroll down. There are your new error beeps, reporting for duty. You don't even have to convert them to a different music format!