

Appendix for Chapter 18: .Mac Backup

Before Apple got serious about backup software with Time Machine in Mac OS X 10.5, it offered the tiny but charming .Mac Backup program. It's available only to .Mac subscribers (\$100 per year), and it's not nearly as amazing as Time Machine, but it's something.

Making a Backup

After you've downloaded the Backup program (from www.mac.com) and installed it, you'll find the Backup icon in your Applications folder. Opening it produces what you see here:



Backup starts you out with a list of Backup Plans: checkboxes for stuff Apple thinks you might want to back up. Incidentally, Backup requires an Internet connection; each time you back up, it checks in with the mother ship to confirm that you're a .Mac member (although you can restore your stuff even if you're not).

Here's how to back up your stuff:

1. **Specify what category of stuff to back up.**

On the starting screen, you're offered some canned backup plans. **Home Folder** backs up your entire Home folder—photos, music, movies, settings, the works—onto blank CDs or DVDs once a month. Frankly, most people's Home folders are way too big to make this convenient. **iLife** is similar, but the backups are weekly, and the contents are just photos, music, and movies you've made.

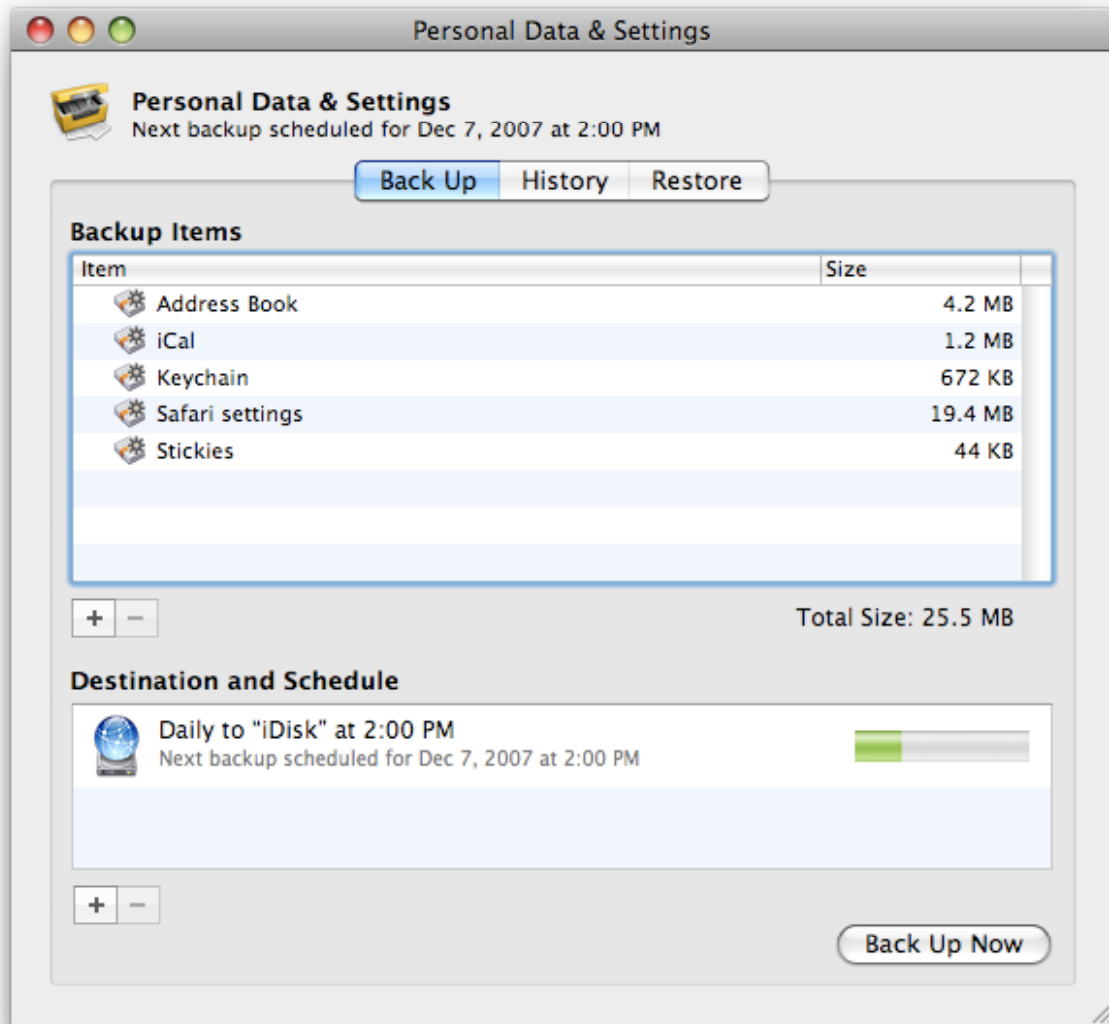
Backing up your **iTunes Library** is a darned good idea, because if your hard drive dies and you lose all that stuff you've bought from the iTunes store, Apple has no mercy. You'll have to buy it all again.

Personal Data & Settings automatically keeps your address book, stored passwords, Safari bookmarks, and other smallish stuff backed up online, on your iDisk.

You’ll be able to customize any of these things in a later step; for now, turn on the checkboxes of the primary categories you want backed up.

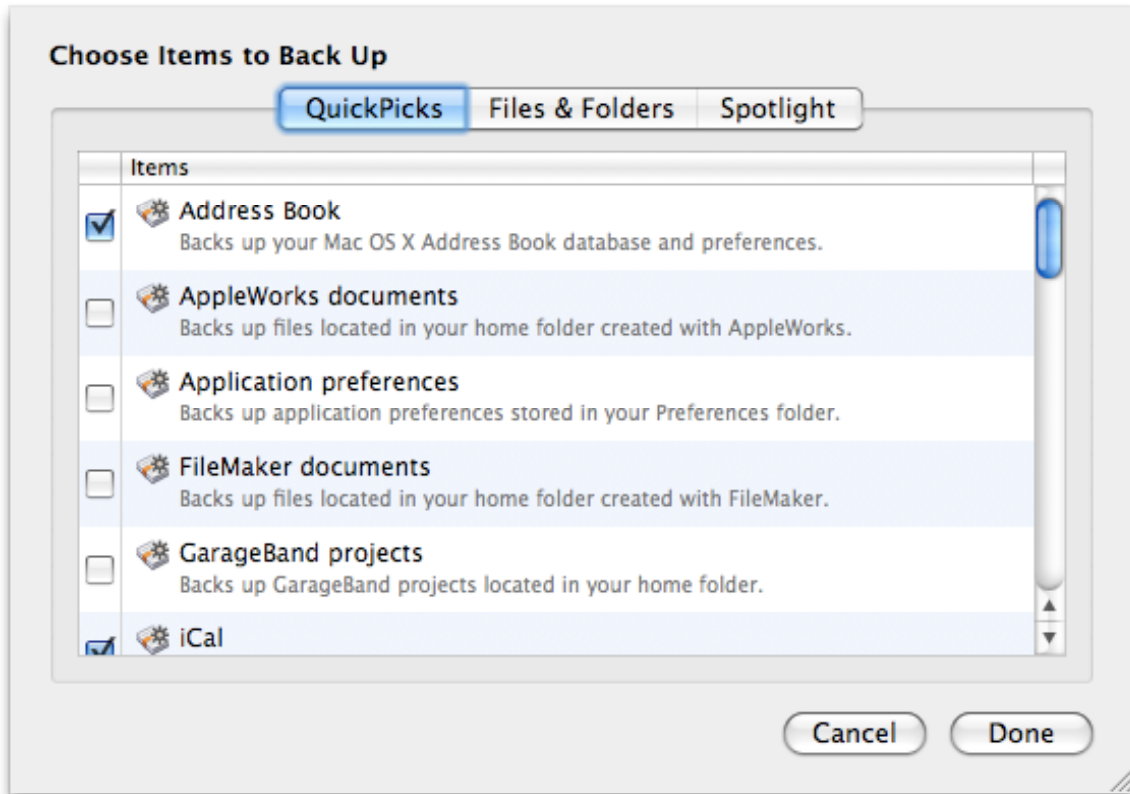
2. **Click Continue.**

Now you arrive at the Settings screen for the category you selected.



3. **Customize how this category will be backed up.**

For example, if you click the + button under the top list, you get this box, where you can turn on other types of documents you want to be backed up:

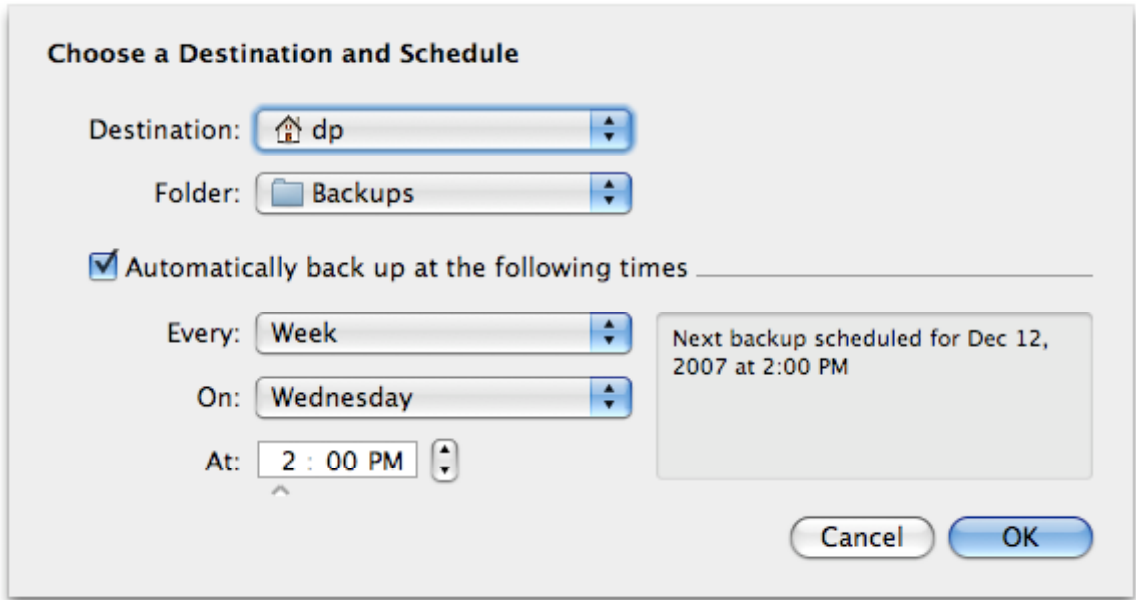


If you click the Files & Folders tab, you're offered the chance to specify which *folders* on your hard drive you want to back up. (You can drag folders right of the desktop into this list.) And if you click Spotlight, you can use Mac OS X's Spotlight search feature to locate specific files and folders to add to (or exclude from) the list.

As you build your list, Backup shows you how much space (or how many discs) you'll need.

4. **Specify where you want Backup to put your safety copies, and when you want the backups to occur.**

If you click the + button beneath the *bottom* list (Destination & Schedule), you can tailor *when* the backup occurs:



The Destination pop-up menu lets you choose where you want to make your backup copy: on your iDisk, on a blank CD or DVD, onto a flash drive, or on another hard drive—an external hard drive, an iPod, another computer on the network, or whatever. (If you have too much stuff to fit on your iDisk, you’ll have to choose fewer files to back up. If you have too much stuff to fit on a CD or DVD, on the other hand, Backup can split the job across multiple discs.) Click OK when you’re finished tweaking.

At this point, you can close the settings window. You return to the summary screen, which lists everything you’ve set to be backed up:



At this point, you can click the + button to set up *another* category to be backed up—that is, you can return to step 1 and go through the setup process again.

5. Click **Back Up**, or just wait for the scheduled moment to arrive.

If you've opted to back up onto blank discs, Backup asks you to name the backup set (like *Essentials, 12/2/07*), then tells you when to insert new discs. (It's fine to use a combination of blank CDs and DVDs.)

In any case, Backup now whirls into action, making the safety copies (and replacing any earlier copies of them). Or, if you've set a schedule, Backup will kick in at the scheduled time, assuming your Mac is on, your account is logged in, and the Backup program isn't already running. (To find out if your scheduled backup took place, click the History tab.)

Restoring from a Backup

If disaster should ever befall your files, you'll be glad you went through this exercise. Insert the CD or DVD (or connect the iPod, hard drive, or iDisk) and then use the Restore button shown above.

Backup now shows you a list of the backups, identified by date. Turn on the Restore checkboxes next to the stuff you want, and then click Restore Selection.

(Backup puts the restored files and folders right back where they came from—*unless* you choose Alternate Location.)