

KICKING the TIRES

by Frank Petrie, MaMUGs, Technology Specialist



Product: Deep Vacuum v0.91
Company: Hexcat
<www.hexcat.com/deepvacuum/index.html>
Requirements: Mac OS 10.2 or later
Retail Price: Donationware
Test Rig: iBook G4/933/640 MB RAM
Review Date: 05 May 2004

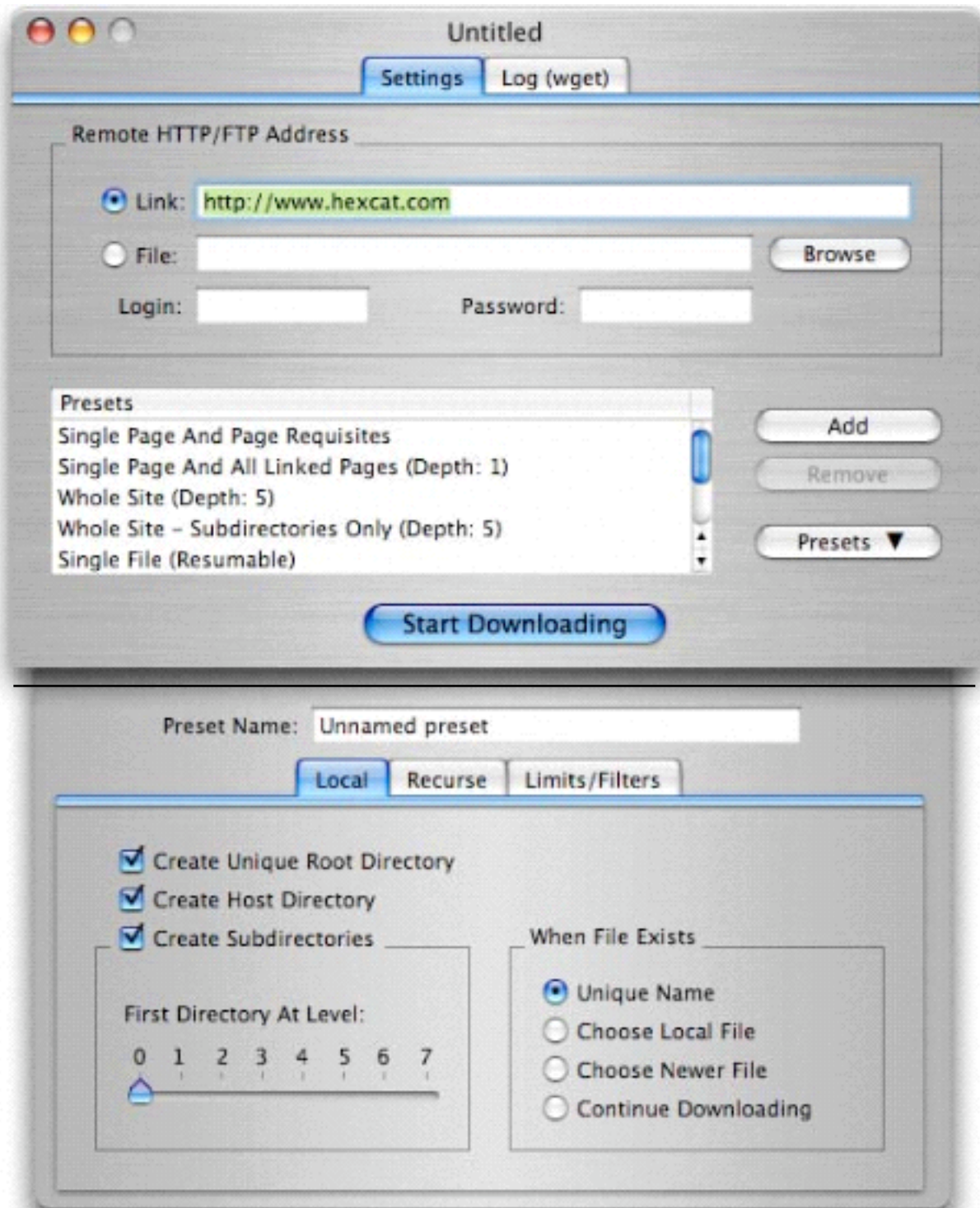
Did you ever see a web page that had an article you wanted to read at length or study the graphics and layout, or rummage through the hyperlinks. But either you didn't have the time or, if you're on dial-up, didn't want to tie up the line. This could be a solution to your quandary.

"DeepVacuum is a useful web utility based on GNU wget command line tool. Program includes a vast number of options to fine tune your downloads through both http and ftp protocols. ... DV enables you to download: whole single pages, entire sites, ftp catalogs, link lists from a text file, filtered types, ex. images."

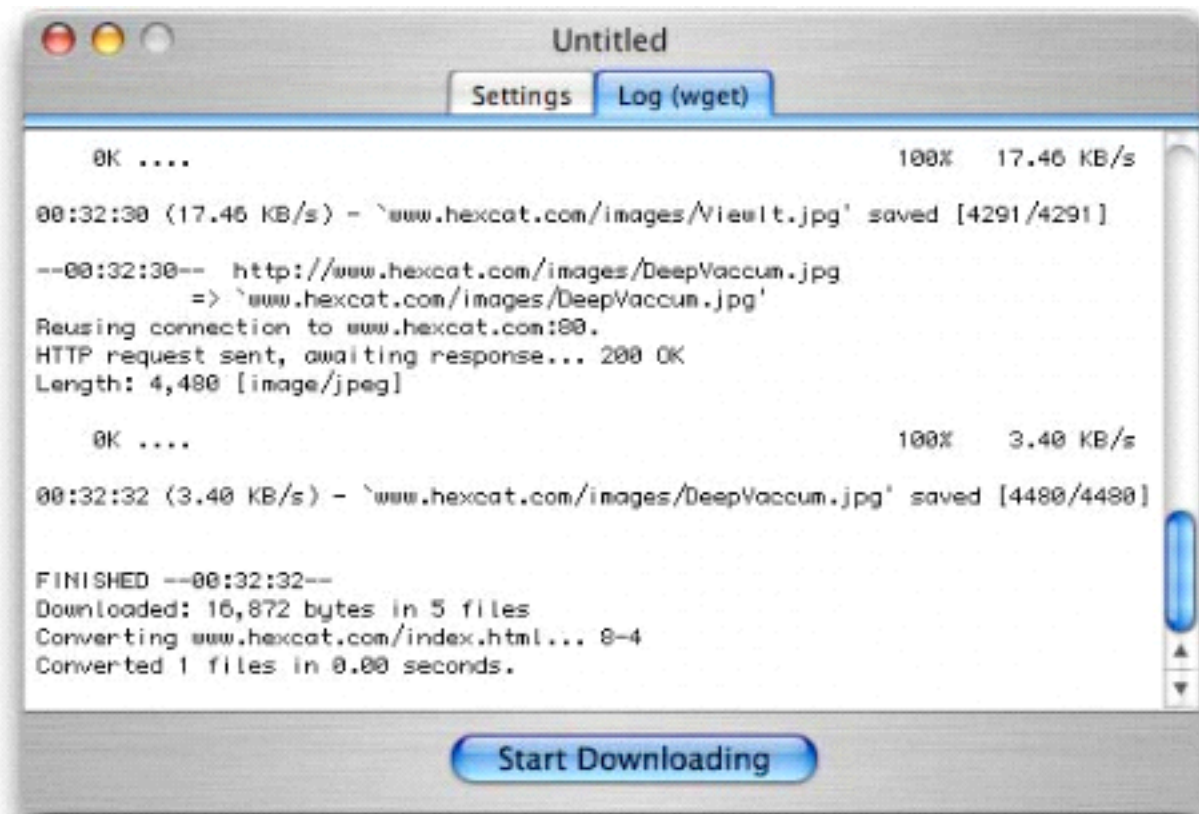
In layman terms, "a frontend GUI to wget 1.9.1". If you're a layman like myself, you're on your knees giving thanks (and asking, 'What is a wget?'). A 'one trick pony,' but then again, a lot of the new breed of X-ware is one trick. And that's good because developers can focus on one thing and do it well. (Refer to rule: 'Jack of all trades, master of none.')

THE GOOD

"Drag this file into your Applications folder." Hey, I can do that. In fact, I dare say that I'm pretty good at it. The GUI is Apple's brushed aluminum look. Whether or not that suits your tastes or colors your opinion is your call. Navigation is a breeze because DV is completely intuitive.



DV comes with its own preset group of settings to make downloading resources much easier. But you can define your own presets by modifying any of default setting and adding them as a new preset.



This program is customizable every which way to Sunday. From just looking at the Presets drawer, this app has been well thought out. I also like that it allows you to perform very geeky UNIX-based stuff without any knowledge (such as myself). But you are given the option of approaching it as a UNIX guru (unlike myself). So you can download according to your specific criteria, be that by file extension, text only, whole sites, just one page including links, etc.

THE BAD

Nada.

THE UGLY

Nada.

THE CLOSE

This app is so intuitive that I launched it and used within ten seconds – no exaggeration! I salute the author, Bozena Losvik, and recommend it highly.

And if you do keep it, remember to send a donation. It keeps companies like Hexcat moving forward. And in turn, we all move forward.

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The Mid-Atlantic Macintosh User Groups Team (MaMUGs)
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Thank you.

