

KICKING the TIRES

by Frank Petrie, MaMUGs, Technology Specialist



PRODUCT: SPEED DOWNLOAD v2.3.5
COMPANY: YAZSOFT <WWW.YAZSOFT.COM/>
REQUIREMENTS: MAC OS X 10.2.8 OR LATER
PRICE: (US) \$20.00
TEST RIG: IBook G4/933/640 MB RAM
REVIEW DATE: 02 JUNE 2004

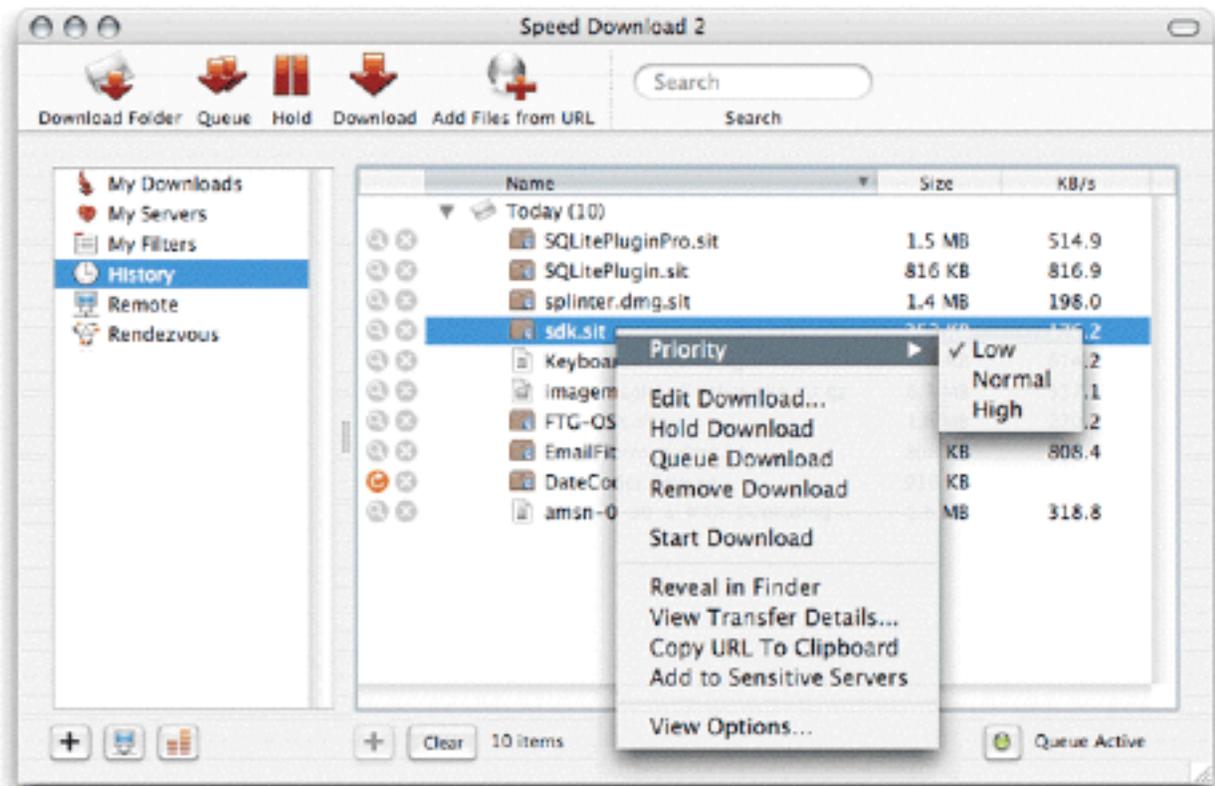
I'm a child of America. That is to say I'm spoiled. I want it miniature, better and I want it now. NOW! I use cable. Other than upgrading to a T-line and selling my soul to pay for it, how could I possibly increase my download speed? After all, I need that 200+ MB download and – remember – I need it NOW!!

"Enriched with a totally redesigned Mac OS X interface and features that take advantage of leading edge Macintosh technology, Speed Download 2 is [t]he fastest, most complete award winning download manager for Mac OS X no matter what browser you use."

Almost sounds like a promo for a Mazeratti. Let's look behind the hype and under the hood.

THE GOOD

"Drag this icon yadda, yadda, yadda." Speed Download uses segmented downloading for downloading files. Think of it as the downloading equivalent of Tab Browsing. SD2 supports the ftp and http protocols as well as secure connections from your browser.



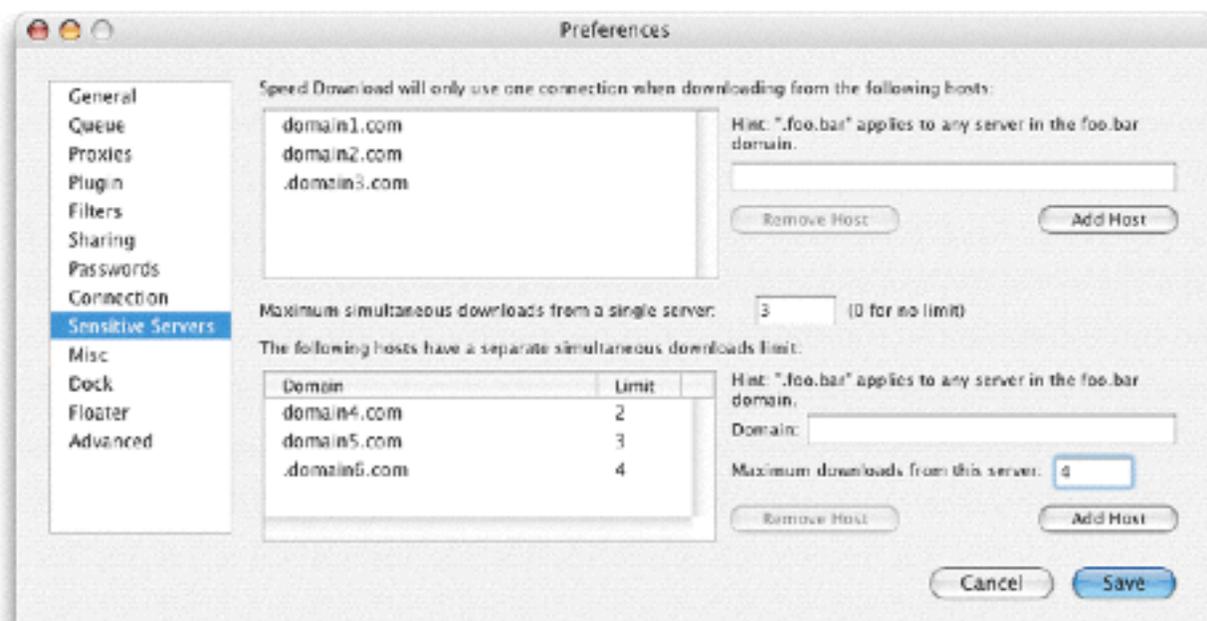
The 'My Downloads' section is the heart of Speed Download 2. This part is your download library, where everything is stored and from where everything can be done (just as in iTunes). You can Control-Click on any entry in the main window and you will be presented with a menu of very useful, powerful, and easy to use features.

You can connect via Rendezvous on your local network or remotely to another Mac running SD2 across the internet, bookmark all your favorite connections to other Macs running Speed Download for easy access.

There's extreme flexibility in how you want to organize your files. 'My Filters' lets you instruct SD2 to download each file extension to a different folder/location. You can neatly have all your .SIT files in one folder, all your .DMG files in another, etc. It's the same as 'Rules' in Mail.

You can create and customize shared URL favorites and share them with other users via Rendezvous on your local network and/or remotely across the internet. This gives you the option of creating users and passwords in order to access these shared URL favorites.

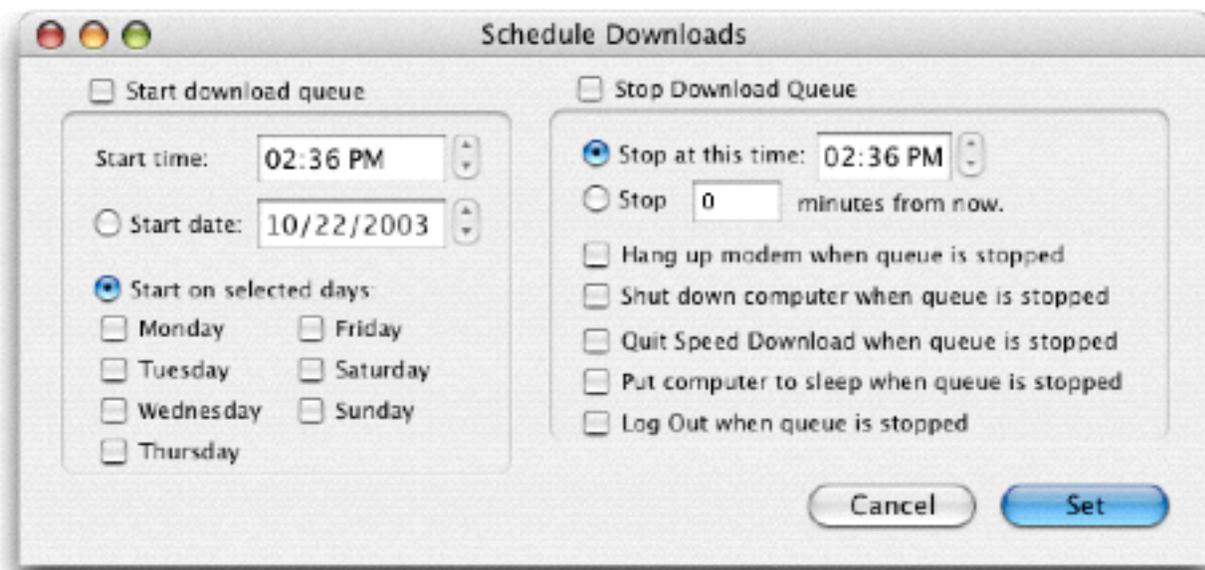
Depending on the permissions you set, connected users will be able to view or actually TRANSFER files you've already downloaded onto their machines. Not only is this faster on speedy LAN connections, it is also a lot more bandwidth efficient.



And to be good neighbors to the online community, 'Sensitive Servers' instructs SD2 to open just one connection, instead of several, resulting in less strain on older servers that do not have the bandwidth capacity to handle multiple connections.

SD2 also has an extremely fast and simple searching ability to sort through all your download URLs. Type in any information relating to the URL/file you are looking for and Speed Download will filter all your entries until you find what you're looking for. And as a bonus, this search functionality works in all parts of the application.

And 'Scheduling' gives you total flexibility to set your download time to whenever you like. You can instruct Speed Download to hang up your modem, shut down your computer, quit itself, put your Mac to sleep, and even log out, when the downloading is complete. Nice. Does it brew coffee?



THE BAD

You're going to fill your hard drive with tons of movie trailers and huge trial software downloads.

THE UGLY

Nada.

THE CLOSE

I've been a REGISTERED Speed Download user since v1. I happen to have a thing for collecting movie trailers. And the occasional 200+MB trial demo.

If you find that you download a lot of sizable files, and if you share a lot of these files on your LAN, you definitely want to give this a look. If you don't fit into this category, download it anyhow. I think you'll be quite surprised and what kind of speed you can coax out of your pipeline.

RATING: 10 out of 10

PULL QUOTE: Speed Download uses segmented downloading for downloading files. Think of it as the downloading equivalent of Tab Browsing.

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The Mid-Atlantic Macintosh User Groups Team (MaMUGs)
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Providing camaraderie, cooperative programs, events, training and knowledge sharing for Apple/Macintosh User Groups **free of charge**.

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