



KICKING THE TIRES

by Frank Petrie



Review

Product: Yasu v.0.3.8

Company: Jim Mitchell Designs

<<http://homepage.mac.com/jim.mitchell/yasu/index.html>>

Requirements: OS X.2 or greater

Price: Donationware

Test Rig: iBook G4/933/640 MB RAM

Review Date: 04 February 2004

Another call, another weekend. 'My G4 is booting very slow.' 'I can't seem to run Jaguar without it freezing every hour or so.' "Dad, can I have ten bucks?" How many house calls do you make a week? And what's in your virtual toolbox?

"Designed with System Administrators who service large groups of workstations in mind, Yasu was built for doing a specific group of maintenance tasks quickly within a few clicks, rather than endlessly typing shell script commands in the Terminal app." "Very simply put, Yasu does in one place, at one time, what you can manually do in the Terminal to perform basic maintenance on your Mac. It certainly isn't the "be all - end all" of system utilities, but it does get the job done that you need it to do."

Yasu (Yet another system utility) is the work of Jim Mitchell Designs. So let's try it out and see if he's right!

THE GOOD

"Drag the icon to your Applications folder." This has one of the most simple, utilitarian interfaces I've ever seen. Yet, in Aqua it looks beautiful and is extremely intuitive.

One small pane. One large mission. "Yasu is basically a wrapper for several well known terminal shell scripts to perform system maintenance, most of which can be found on the more popular Mac OSX related web sites. The shell script commands that Yasu uses have been included in the online help, so you, as a user, can know what going on under the hood."



You have your cron scripts, permission repair, prebinding and the clearing of various caches. And you can watch each one run as it has Apple's 'twirling gear' and each function unchecks itself when completed.

Simple prefs. Would you like any or all of the above to occur then have the system reboot?

Excellent Help Viewer. It explains how this program works (if you can't work this, you most likely can't click-and-drop either) and shows you the shell scripts that each choice performs in terminal code.

A friend referred to this app as "quick and dirty." He was spot on. This is as streamlined as you can possibly get.

THE BAD

Nada.

THE UGLY

Nada.

THE CLOSE

The author was dead on the money when he came up with the name, 'Yasu' (Yet another system utility). And although I already have several utilities and then some, this is the one I'll take over to someone's house along with my copy of Disk Warrior to bring their copy of Panther (or Jaguar) up to snuff. Everything in a very neat, little package. Extremely impressive.

Jim has two other apps; one currently available and another on the way. I think we'll be taking a look at those, as well. Congratulations, Jim. Great work.

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