

Spring Cleaning by Allume Review

by Glenn Johnson

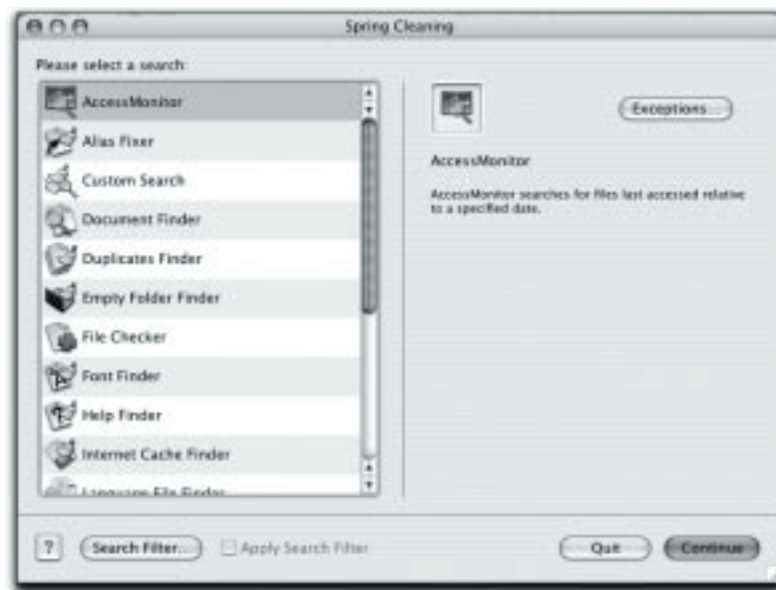


That's my number they just called! So, of the raffle prizes that were on the table I chose Spring Cleaning by Allume Systems. My first intention was to use it on my old beige G3 system that is running OS 9.2. I was hopeful that I could clean that hard drive for possibly upgrading it to OS X. The Spring Cleaning package stated that it was compatible with OS X. It did not mention that it would only work with OS 10.2 or later until the package was opened. Maybe that was because this package was a booklet with a cd shrink wrapped instead of boxed version that might have had more requirements printed on it.

Slight disappointment. On to plan B. I have a early snow white iBook with only a ten Gb hard drive set up as a dual boot system. In todays world ten Gb doesn't last long (I remember in the old Apple II days when 40 Mb was huge.) In fact just a couple of months ago I only had a few hundred Mb of room left. I started to thin out my iPhotos and was going to archive a whole lot of them when I accidentally deleted them all. That gave me some room! Anyway, I thought that Spring Cleaning could help clean some old files out and organize my hard drive so when I got back to doing more photos I would not run out of space quite so fast. I had removed an older version of Photo Elements to install Elements 2 and thought there might be some left over garbage that could be found. Also in looking over my applications it looked as though I might have two versions of OS X iMovie residing on the drive along with a couple of OS 9 apps (iTunes & iMovie) that could be removed or archived to get some space.

At the start of installation of Spring Cleaning I had 2.01 Gb of space on the hard drive. After the install, 1.99. So that was where I was going to go from.

Installation was easy as is the case with most Mac apps. There is more to Spring Cleaning than just being able to remove files, you can search for specific files and theoretically get a list of results then decide on a course of action on one or more of the files. After reading the eight page booklet I decided to try what appeared to be some of the easier searches to learn the program and get my feet wet slowly before jumping in with something as drastic as asking it to remove a complete application. My first choice was to use the "Internet Cache Finder" search. It looks for cookie files, history files and cache files that are created by web browsers. You can then delete some or all or old ones. As I found out searches take some time. There is a progress bar while the search is going on. After close to twenty



minutes and the bar was approaching the end I got a dreaded alert box. "The application Spring Cleaning has unexpectedly quit. The system and other applications have not been affected." Ouch! I tried a second time with the same results. Tried a different search. Looked for "Empty Folder Finder". After a long wait the dreaded alert box. I was to see that box a number of times. For my third search I tried "Orphaned Pref

Finder". This one worked and gave me the results that it did not find any. Enough for one night and a couple of hours of work. The next session I tried "Duplicate Finder" and "Orphaned Files" with the same dreaded alert box after lengthy 20 to 30 minute searches. Over the next couple of sessions I read the manual that is in pdf format looking for clues to what I might have done wrong. I found nothing. Some of this I was doing while on Christmas vacation visiting relatives and didn't have access to my dial up connection to look for help online. But when I got home I did but found nothing on the website. I had not registered with Allume yet, so did not ask for help. I tried one last search, "Help Finder". This is to find Read Me files and help files that could be deleted or archived. Again the same

results. I didn't ask for technical help for a couple of reasons. I believe a program should at least work for 90 percent of it and then ask for help for the last ten percent. It could be that my system is funky. At any rate the time to get this working looked like it might take many calls

and much time that I don't have. I decided to Uninstall the program and give it back to the raffle committee hopefully they will put it back in the raffle and another person and different system will have to review it. I would be very interested in the results. I hope it will work for somebody else first time so that it can get a decent review. By the way it did uninstall itself ok. 🍏