

by Judy Eber

## Erases Unwanted Applications & Their Related Files!

I grabbed YANK when I heard my raffle number called, and thought: this is just what I've been looking for. How easy it is to install new applications on OS X! You drag an icon into your applications folder, and there it is. Now wouldn't it be great if it were just as easy to do uninstalls? It isn't! You can't just drag the app to the trash and Boom, it's gone. Throwing a program in the trash doesn't delete the whole program. Almost every Mac program installs extra files on your hard drive—mysterious plists, big databases. Plus, there are those annoying little prefs, caches, and support files all over the place wasting space and degrading performance. You can't delete every one by hand and expect to get them all. It's a pain. So, you wind up with millions of files clogging up the works and just let them sit there...for years!

Yank is an all-purpose uninstaller for Mac OS X with a twist. It was simple to install on my iMac G5, just dragged into the Applications Folder. Here's the twist—you use it when you install a new program, and once you install that program, YANK keeps track of those files and monitors the installation process, creates uninstaller files—called Yank Files—and saves a Yank File, recording

every change the program made to your hard drive. Yank can uninstall any software and all its support files, no matter how it was installed to maintain a faster, cleaner system, and later, if you decide to remove the software, just open up the Yank File and YANK will access its saved files and removes them all when you click Uninstall. Yank removes all traces of the software and puts your Mac back where it was.

Yank requires Mac OS X Tiger 10.4 or later to create Yank Files. It comes with a free subscription to the Yank File Sharing Server. You can download free Yank files that other Yank users have created and use them to uninstall almost any software off a Mac running Jaguar or Panther. It comes with a manual right in the Help menu and offers Customer Service and Tech Support for a cost of \$19.95 at [Matterform.com](http://Matterform.com).

The Yank window has three tabs: Install, where you can install new software, Uninstall, where you can use Yank files to remove software from your Mac, and Share, where you can search for Yank files that other Yank users have created.

Matterform says other uninstaller products for the Mac use unreliable search technologies to locate and remove software,

that they can't find all related files and never find files that spyware programmers deliberately hide. Yank uses Sonar Technology real-time file monitor "to log file system changes, which lets Yank remove software reliably, safely and completely," and can log and report every file change ever made on your Mac. This program can create files for any kind of installation: packages, custom installer programs and drag-and-drop installers. If you have software that you installed before, you just log onto the Yank File Sharing Service, where you can find Yank Files and download the Yank File you need and Yank that program right out.

Although it may be true that Sonar Technology's method is superior to others, for me, an intermediate level user, I found it took a bit getting used to and cumbersome to search for other users' contributions to remove my apps. I compared the program with AppZapper v1.5.1 for \$12.95 built for Tiger 10.4, and found both extremely useful and easy to use with simple drag and drop of unwanted software into the program's interface, no searching, and all related files are immediately eradicated from your hard drive with a blast! Ease of use aside, the question remains: is it as reliable as Yank's Sonar Technology claims to be, or just more fun?? 🐼

