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Rosetta Radar — User Guide & Documentation

KNOW WHICH OF YOUR APPS ROSETTA
IS KEEPING ALIVE



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Rosetta Radar

User Guide & Documentation

Version 1.24

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1. Overview

Rosetta Radar is a free Mac utility that scans every application installed on your Mac and sorts each one by the type of processor it was built for. It shows you, at a glance, which of your apps are **Intel-only** — the apps that rely on Apple's Rosetta 2 translation layer and that will stop opening once Apple removes it.

Why it matters

Apple is winding down **Rosetta 2**, the technology that lets Intel-based apps run on Apple Silicon Macs. With the September 2026 macOS 27 release Apple removed Rosetta 2 from operating system. When a user launches an Intel-based app they will see a prompt to download Rosetta 2. Come macOS 28 due in September of 2027 Rosetta will be removed entirely. When that happens, any app built for Intel processors will no longer launch. Rosetta Radar gives you an early, clear inventory of your Intel-based apps so you have time to look for an Apple Silicon or Universal update — or a replacement — before anything stops working.

What it checks

For each app, Rosetta Radar inspects the app's **primary program file** with the built-in macOS **file** tool and reports one of five results:

- **Intel-only** — a 64-bit built for Intel processors primary executable; needs Rosetta 2 on an Apple Silicon Mac.
- **Universal** — built for both Intel and Apple Silicon; runs natively on either.
- **Apple Silicon** — built for Apple Silicon (arm64/arm64e); runs natively, no Rosetta needed.

- **32-bit Intel** — a legacy 32-bit (i386) app. Modern macOS can no longer run these at all, with or without Rosetta 2 (Rosetta 2 translates only 64-bit Intel code). Shown in its own section only when any are found.
- **Other** — no standard Intel or Apple Silicon executable was found for the app's primary program (scripts, web apps, helper components).

A note on scope: Rosetta Radar reads each app's **primary** program file. An app reported as Apple Silicon or Universal could still bundle a separate Intel-only component, plug-in, or helper that isn't examined here, and an app shown as "Other" could invoke an Intel helper. The categories describe the app's main executable, which is the right question for the great majority of apps.

The architecture reading corresponds to the information macOS itself reports under *About This Mac* ▶ *More Info* ▶ *System Report* ▶ *Software* ▶ *Applications*, read directly from each app's binary so results are accurate on every macOS version.

Rosetta Radar's Key features

- A clean HTML report and a CSV spreadsheet, saved to your Desktop each time you run it — you can create both, or just the one you want.
- A short plain-language description of what each app does — about 6,000 common apps are recognized offline from a built-in library (sourced from the Homebrew Cask project, BSD-2-Clause; see the included "Third-Party Notices"), so most apps are described and linked without any internet lookup.
- A **Source** column that shows the app's signing developer when it is known.
- Underlined app names that link to the developer's website, so you can check for an updated version.
- A comprehensive scan — it combines the macOS application list with a Spotlight sweep, and can optionally include external volumes.

- Fully offline by default; an optional online lookup fills in missing descriptions and links.

2. System Requirements

- A Mac running macOS (Apple Silicon or Intel). Rosetta Radar is most useful on Apple Silicon Macs, where Rosetta 2 matters.
- No additional software. Everything Rosetta Radar uses is built into macOS — there is nothing to install, and no Python, Homebrew, or other dependencies.
- The optional online lookup requires an internet connection; every other feature works with no network at all.

3. Installation

Place your Rosetta Radar app anywhere you'd like on your computer. It can be located within the systems application folder or anywhere else you want to put it.

What's in the package

- **Rosetta Radar.app** — the application. Double-click to run.
- **Rosetta Radar.command** — the same scan as a Terminal script, for anyone who prefers not to use the app.
- **Read Me First.txt** — a short quick-start guide.
- **Rosetta Radar Documentation** — this guide.

Opening it the first time

Because Rosetta Radar is a free tool distributed outside the App Store, macOS asks you to confirm the first time you open it. This is normal and only happens once.

1. Right-click (or Control-click) Rosetta Radar.app.
2. Choose Open from the menu.
3. In the box that appears, click Open again.

If macOS still refuses with a “cannot be opened” message, open *System Settings* ▸ *Privacy & Security*, scroll down to the note about Rosetta Radar, and click **Open Anyway**. After the first time, the app opens with a normal double-click.

Running the Terminal version instead

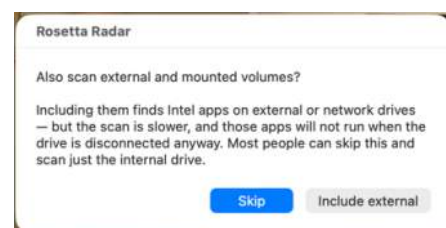
If you prefer, double-click **Rosetta Radar.command** to run exactly the same scan in a Terminal window. It follows the same first-time confirmation steps described above.

4. Using Rosetta Radar

When you launch Rosetta Radar, it asks three quick questions, then shows a progress window while it works. When it finishes, the report opens automatically in your web browser (if you chose to create one).

Question 1 — External volumes

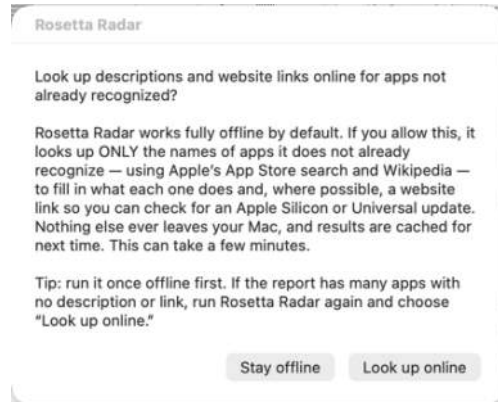
Rosetta Radar first asks whether to also scan **external and mounted volumes**. Including them finds Intel apps on external or network drives — but the scan is slower, and those apps will not run when the drive is



disconnected anyway. Most people can choose **Skip** and scan just the internal drive.

Question 2 — Online lookup

Next, it asks whether to **look up descriptions and website** links online for apps it does not already recognize. Rosetta Radar works fully offline by default. If you allow this, it sends **only the names** of

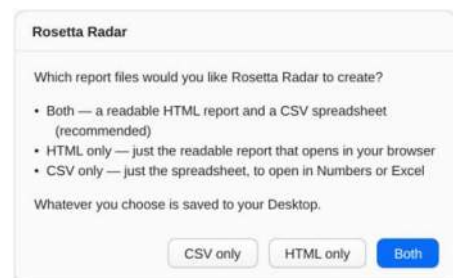


unrecognized apps to Apple's App Store search and Wikipedia, to fill in what each one does and, where possible, a website link. Nothing else ever leaves your Mac, and results are cached for next time. As hard as it works, Rosetta Radar still may not find links or developer details for a few of your apps. But using the information it does find should help you search for the missing links.

Tip: run it once offline first. If the report has many apps with no description or link, run Rosetta Radar again and choose **Look up online** to fill in the gaps.

Question 3 — Which files to create

Finally, Rosetta Radar asks which files you would like it to create: **Both** an HTML report and a CSV spreadsheet (the default), **HTML only** for just the readable report that opens in your browser, or **CSV only** for just the spreadsheet to open in Numbers or Excel. Whatever you choose is saved to your Desktop.



The progress window

A small window shows the scan's progress with a percentage as Rosetta Radar reads your application list, locates every app bundle, and inspects each one. This can take a minute or more while macOS compiles the list of installed apps. The time will vary based on your hardware and how many apps you have on your computer.

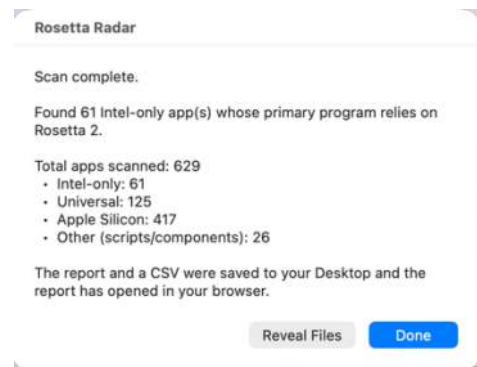


When the scan finishes

Depending on your choice, one or both of these are saved to your **Desktop**:

- **Rosetta-Radar-Report-`<date>`.html** — a readable report that opens automatically in your browser.
- **Rosetta-Radar-Report-`<date>`.csv** — the same data as a spreadsheet you can open in Numbers or Excel.

A summary box also appears with the totals. Click **Reveal Files** to show your files in the Finder, or **Done** to close it. The files stay on your Desktop until you delete them.



5. Understanding the Report

Summary tiles

At the top of the report, tiles show the count of **Intel-only**, **Universal**, **Apple Silicon**, and **Total** apps — plus a **32-bit Intel** tile that appears only when any legacy 32-bit apps are found. Click any tile to show only that category; click it again, or the Total tile, to show everything.



The results banner

Beneath the tiles, a banner summarizes the finding: either that no Intel-only apps were found (in which case it notes that none of the apps scanned need Rosetta 2 **for their primary executable**), or how many Intel-only apps need attention before Rosetta 2 is removed. If any 32-bit Intel (legacy) apps were found, the banner calls those out separately, since modern macOS cannot run them regardless of Rosetta.

59 Intel-only apps found. Each has a 64-bit Intel primary executable that needs Rosetta 2 on an Apple Silicon Mac. Apple is winding Rosetta 2 down — once it is removed in a future macOS release, these apps will no longer open. Check each for an Apple Silicon or Universal update, or a replacement.

Scan type — offline or online

SCAN TYPE Online lookup used (App Store + Wikipedia)

Every report states plainly whether it was produced **offline** or with the **online lookup** turned on. It appears in two places: on the line just under the title (next to the version), and as a labeled *Scan type* badge directly beneath the results banner. An offline report reads “Offline — no internet lookup used”; an online

one reads “Online lookup used (App Store + Wikipedia).” The footer repeats the detail. This lets you tell at a glance whether a report's descriptions and links came entirely from the built-in library or were supplemented from the web.

The Source column

The **Source** column shows who signed each app — the **developer's name** when the app carries a Developer ID signature (for example, “Primate Labs Inc.” for Geekbench), or **Apple, Mac App Store, or Unidentified** when there is no developer signature to read.

VERSION	SOURCE
2.9	Artel Software Corporation
1.2	Unidentified
1.2	TEAM HCISO
3.7.25118	Scooter Software Inc.

App name links

When Rosetta Radar knows an app's website, the app's name is **underlined**. Click it to open the developer's page **in a new browser tab** — so you keep your place in the report — where you can check whether an Apple Silicon or Universal version is available. Links come from a built-in list of well-known apps and, when you enable the online lookup, from Apple's App Store. Apps with no known website simply appear without a link.

<u>Creative Cloud Content Manager</u>	7.5.0-8
Adobe app that installs and updates Creative Cloud apps.	
<u>DaisyDisk</u>	4.34.2
Visualizes disk usage to find and remove large files.	
<u>Data Rescue 4</u>	4.3.1
Recovers lost files from damaged or erased drives.	

Filtering and collapsing

Use the **filter box** to narrow the list by app name, description, or location. Click any section heading (**Intel, Universal, Apple Silicon, Other**) to collapse or expand that section

info					
Intel 59					
NAME	VERSION	SOURCE	MODIFIED	LAST OPENED	LOCATION
Core Sync	7.8.10.1	Adobe Inc.	2026-05-16	—	/Applications/Utilities/Adobe Sync/CoreSync/Core Sync.app
Creative Cloud Content Manager	7.5.0-8	Adobe Inc.	2026-05-21	2026-09-16	/Applications/Utilities/Adobe Creative Cloud Experience/CCXProcess/CCXProcess.app
Universal 123					
NAME	VERSION	SOURCE	MODIFIED	LAST OPENED	LOCATION
Acrobat Distiller	25.001.21288	Adobe Inc.	2026-03-13	—	/Applications/Adobe Acrobat D/Adobe Distiller.app

Locating an app in Finder

Click an app's **location** to copy that folder's path to the clipboard. Then, in Finder, press $\text{⌘}+\text{⇧}+\text{G}$ (Command-Shift-G), paste, and press Return to jump straight to the app.



The CSV file

The CSV contains the same information as columns you can sort and filter in a spreadsheet: *Name, Architecture, Version, Location, Source, Last Modified, Last Opened, Description, and Website*. Apps are sorted with Intel-only first, then Universal, Apple Silicon, and Other.

Last Opened & sorting

Each app also shows a Last Opened date — when you last launched it — read from Spotlight (blank if the app has never been opened or isn't indexed). Click any column heading to sort by it, and click again to reverse. Your filter stays applied while you sort, so you can type a maker's name (for example "ONI"), then sort those apps by Last Opened and handle them together in one place.

6. Your Privacy

Offline by default

Rosetta Radar runs fully offline by default. It makes no network connections and sends nothing anywhere. The reports it creates stay on your Desktop until you choose to delete them.

The optional online lookup

The online lookup is **off by default** and is offered only at launch. If you turn it on, only the **names** of apps Rosetta Radar does not already recognize are sent to Apple's App Store search and Wikipedia, purely to fetch a description

and a website link. No other information about you, your Mac, or your other apps ever leaves your computer, and the results are cached locally so future runs stay fast. As hard as it works, Rosetta Radar still may not find links or developer information for a few of your apps. But using the information it does find will help you search for the missing information.

7. Troubleshooting

The app won't open

This is the normal first-run behavior for a free, unsigned app. Follow the **Opening it the first time** steps in section 3: right-click the app, choose Open, then click Open again. If macOS still refuses, use *System Settings* ▶ *Privacy & Security* ▶ *Open Anyway*.

The report didn't appear

Your report is saved to your Desktop, named with the date and time — an HTML report, a CSV, or both, depending on what you chose. If your browser did not bring the report to the front, look on the Desktop for the most recent Rosetta-Radar-Report file and double-click it. You can also click Reveal Files in the summary box to show your files in the Finder.

An app has no description or link

Every Mac has a different mix of apps, so the built-in list cannot cover them all. Run Rosetta Radar again and choose **Look up online** to fill in missing descriptions and website links from Apple's App Store and Wikipedia. As hard as it works, Rosetta Radar still may not find links or developer information for a few of your apps. But using the information it does find will help you search for the missing information.

An app looks mislabeled

Architecture is read directly from each app's program file, which is authoritative. If a description or link looks wrong for an app whose name is shared by something else, it is usually a name collision; the online lookup guards against mismatches, and you can always confirm on the developer's own page. Feedback is welcome at Ast-WareArts@protonmail.com.

8. Notes for Distributors

This section is for anyone redistributing Rosetta Radar under the Ast-Ware Arts brand.

How it works

Rosetta Radar.app is a small bundle whose executable is a shell script (*Contents/MacOS/RosettaRadar*). It enumerates installed apps with *system_profiler*, locates additional app bundles with a Spotlight query, then determines each app's architecture by inspecting its program file with the built-in *file* tool. The reports are assembled with JavaScript for Automation (JXA). Everything used is built into macOS, so there are no external dependencies. The *.command* file is that same script, standalone.

Rebranding

To rebrand, edit the two lines near the top of the script (*BRAND* and *CONTACT*); these appear in the report's footer. To change the app icon, replace *Contents/Resources/AppIcon.icns*. Right-click the app and choose Show Package Contents to get inside. While rebranding is acceptable, Ast-Ware Arts is required to be shown as the developer.

Removing the first-run warning

The right-click-to-open step exists because the app is unsigned. To let recipients open it with a plain double-click and no warning, sign and notarize it with an Apple Developer ID (\$99/year) before distributing. A helper script, *Notarize this app.command*, is provided separately to the distributor and is not part of the end-user package. Contact Ast-Ware Arts if you need a copy of this script. Without notarization, the right-click ▶ Open instructions are the normal way for recipients to launch a free, unsigned utility.

App coverage

The scan is comprehensive: it merges the apps macOS reports with the app bundles Spotlight has indexed, de-duplicated, so helpers, apps in ~/Applications, and apps in unusual locations are included. At launch it also offers to scan external and mounted volumes. Because Spotlight indexing and the external-volume search depth are not guaranteed to reach every last bundle, this is a thorough scan rather than a mathematical guarantee of completeness.

9. Version History

- **1.24** — Added a choice at launch of which files to create — an HTML report, a CSV spreadsheet, or both — so you can skip whichever file you do not need.
- **1.23** — Updated the Rosetta timeline to Apple’s current plan (macOS 27 is the last with general-purpose Rosetta 2; macOS 28 keeps only a limited subset for certain older games); built-in descriptions now match app names as whole words to avoid look-alike mismatches; added a carriage-return case to CSV quoting; and included the Homebrew Cask license notice.

- **1.22** — Added a built-in library of about 6,000 Mac-app descriptions and website links (from the Homebrew Cask project), so far more apps are recognized and linked without the online lookup.
- **1.21** — Robustness fixes from an independent review: the CSV save is now verified; the completion message names the real save location instead of always saying “Desktop”; report filenames include a unique id so rapid back-to-back scans never overwrite each other; the progress window escapes app names; app bundles are validated before listing; and when an app’s primary program can’t be determined it is classified “Other” rather than guessed.
- **1.20** — Performance: app discovery now de-duplicates in a single pass instead of a per-item scan, so scans stay fast even with very large app counts, and the report’s filter box uses pre-computed search text so filtering a long list stays responsive.
- **1.19** — Maintenance fixes: report and CSV filenames now include the time in seconds so two scans in the same minute no longer overwrite each other; the app reports an error instead of a false success if the report cannot be saved; the Last Modified column is shown as a clean date.
- **1.18** — Added a Last Opened column (from Spotlight) and made every column heading sortable while keeping your filter applied, so all of one maker’s apps can be found and dealt with together.
- **1.17** — Added a distinct 32-bit Intel (legacy) category so old 32-bit apps are no longer labeled as Rosetta-dependent; wording tightened to make clear the scan reads each app’s primary executable; hardened the fallback that chooses which executable to read.
- **1.16** — Every report now states its scan type (offline vs. online lookup) in the header and as a badge beneath the banner.
- **1.15** — Versioned download filename; version shown in the report; developer name in the Source column; app-name links open in a new

tab; expanded built-in website links; Notarize helper removed from the distribution package.

- **1.14** — Online lookup dialog updated to mention website links and the run-offline-first workflow.
- **1.13** — Source column shows the signing developer; app names link to their websites; added a Website column to the CSV.
- **1.12** — Fixed collapse/expand of report sections; reliable auto-open of the report; added and corrected several app descriptions.
- **1.11 and earlier** — Core scanning, HTML and CSV reports, progress window, Spotlight sweep, external-volume option, offline description library, and the optional online lookup.

10. Copyright & Contact

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