

The bad news is that the default languages which are installed with OS X can take up quite a lot of disk space, especially 16-bit Japanese fonts. The following steps will walk you through how to find and get rid of this extra baggage.



Step 1 As in Step 1 of the first tip, download Pseudo.

Step 2 After launching Pseudo, drag Terminal (from Utilities in Applications) into the Pseudo drop window and put in your administrative password.

Step 3 Once the Terminal launches (which may take a few seconds), you may notice that instead of being logged in as your normal `username%` you will now see `root#`. This will give you superuser abilities for this session.

Step 4 Enter: `find / \! -name "English.lproj" -name "*.lproj" -type d -exec rm -rf -- { } \; -prune`

The find and delete operation will take about five minutes, and should clear up about 270 MB of disk space.

This line of code may look somewhat intimidating, so let me briefly explain it piece by piece:

“`find /`” executes the `find` command, and tells it to start at the root (`/`) level of the system.

“`\! -name "English.lproj" -name "*.lproj"`” tells `find` to look for any file that ends in “.lproj” except files with the full name of “English.lproj”.

“`-type d`” tells `find` only to look at directories (all the “.lproj” ‘files’ are actually directories).

“`-exec rm -rf -- { } \;`” tells `find` to run the `rm` command on the results of its search (“`-rf`” tells `rm` to recursively delete through the directory tree without confirmation, and “`--`” tells `rm` that anything following that is not an argument; the “`\;`” signals the end of the `exec` statement).

“`-prune`” — tells `find` not to look further into a directory once a match has been made; this prevents the `rm` command from trying to remove a directory inside a directory that’s already been removed.

Step 5 Once the operation is complete, type `logout` to end the superuser session.

Fun, eh?

THE REMOTE REBOOT

Although it’s rare, OS X does occasionally freeze, sometimes to the point where a force-quit is impossible. But there’s a safe way to restart your Mac smoothly over a network and thus avoid using the dreaded hard-restart button (with possible damage to your data or system software)—but only if you were thinking ahead.

If you check off “Allow Remote Login” under Application in the Sharing Preferences and take note of your computer’s IP address on the network, here’s what to do the next time you freeze (although unfortunately, this won’t resuscitate a “kernel panic”).

Step 1 If your second computer is running OS 9, go directly to Step 2; if OS X, however, you may open a new terminal window (Terminal is found in the Utilities folder inside Applications) and type the following: `ssh -l (lower-case L, not 1) [your user name] [the IP address] ...`Now go to Step 3.

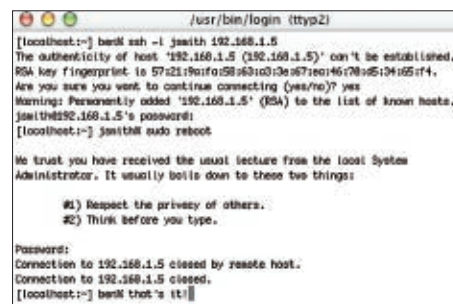
Step 2 For those of you running OS 9 on your second computer, pick up a copy of NiftyTelnet 1.1 SSH which will serve in place of the Terminal—it’s free from www.lysator.liu.se/~jonasw/freeware/niftyssh or www.versiontracker.com

Open Nifty Telnet and edit the default shortcut or create a new one, then give it a “Shortcut Name”, the appropriate IP address to your frozen machine, and choose “SSH—3DES” from the pop-down menu labeled Protocol. Leave the rest as default. Hit return and put your login/password in the resulting fields.

Step 3 The first time you connect to a computer remotely you will receive a minor error about authenticity; feel free to type yes and begin your session.

From here we are remotely logged into the frozen computer. If you’re more experienced with Unix, you can now shut down the individual troublemakers (or whatever you wish) through the command line—after all, it’s Unix. For beginners, let’s just stick with a reboot.

Type `sudo reboot`, and after you enter your password, the machine will quit all processes, unmount partitions, and safely reboot. Woohoo! No hard restarts! 🎉



Ben Brill has spent the last decade developing his skills as a Macintosh aficionado. Got a hint or hack you want to share? Feel free to e-mail him at ben@gxo.com.