MacOS Utilities

What is a Utility?

Utility programs are designed to perform maintenance, management, and optimization of a computer system. Unlike applications that helps users perform tasks like word processing, email, etc., utilities focus on maintaining the health and performance of the computer itself. They also can add usability features that don't come native to a system.

Key characteristics of utility programs include:

- **System maintenance - tools that clean up temporary files, optimize disk storage, check for disk errors, or defragment hard drives**
- **Security functions - antivirus software, firewalls, and malware removal tools**
- **System monitoring - programs that track resource usage, temperatures, or performance metrics**
- **File management - tools for file compression/decompression, backup solutions, and file recovery**
- **System configuration - software to adjust settings, manage drivers, or configure hardware**

Utility programs can come pre-installed with an operating system like macOS's Disk Utility or can be third-party software developed by companies or independent developers.

MacOS System Utilities

There are a handful of utility programs that come included in MacOS and are found in the "Utilities" folder. These include:

- **Activity Monitor**
- **Airport Utility**
- **Audio MIDI Setup**
- **Bluetooth File Exchange**
- **Console**
- **ColorSync Utility**
- **Digital Color Meter**
- **Disk Utility**
- **Grapher**
- **Migration Assistant**
- **Screenshot**
- **Script Editor**
- **System Information**
- **Terminal**
- **VoiceOver Utility**

These programs come loaded in the "Utilities" folder and you should keep them there. Utilities is the default folder for these programs and your system can get finicky if it can't find these programs where it expects them to be. Don't move them. I recommend putting a shortcut for your utilities folder in your dock.

In this presentation I'm going to discuss third party utilities only. Here are 14 great MacOS Utilities to have that can enhance your productivity and keep your Mac running in good shape. These are in alphabetical order to be able to go back and find the ones you are interested in. The cost varies and some are free.

AirBuddy

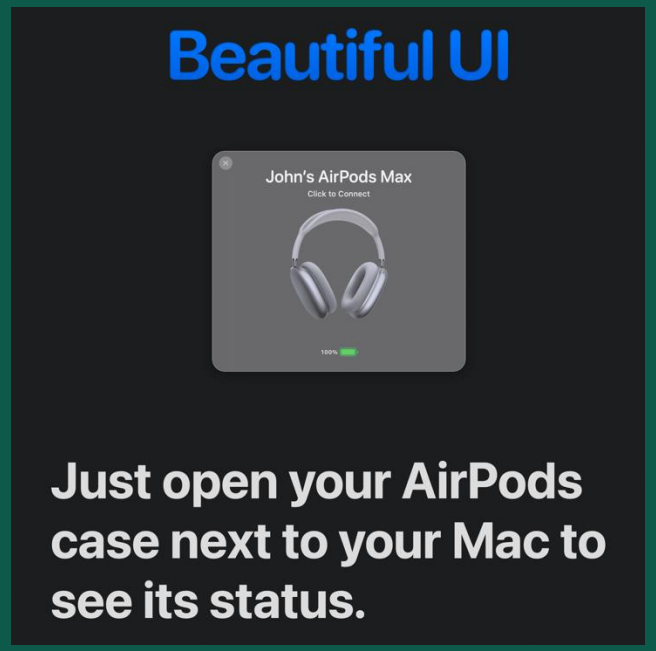
https://v2.airbuddy.app

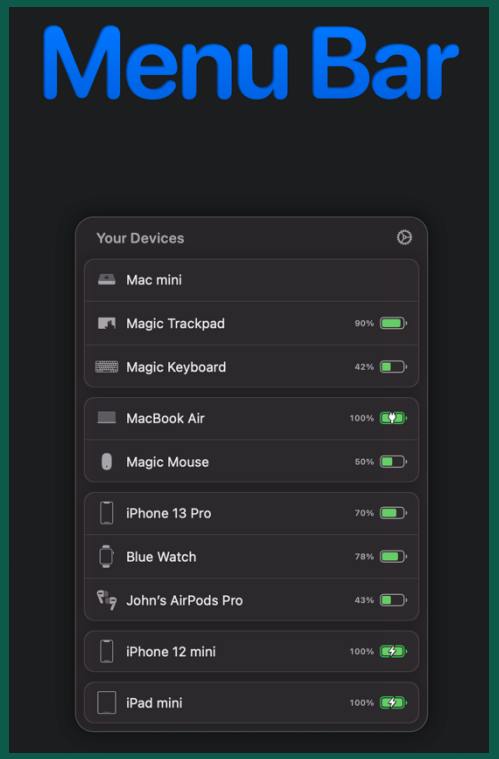
https://airbuddy.macupdate.com

"Take Control of Your Wireless Devices on macOS

Open your AirPods case next to your Mac to see the status right away, just like it works on your iPhone or iPad. AirBuddy lives in your Menu Bar and can also show battery information for your iPhone, iPad, Apple Watch, Mouse, Keyboard, and more."

With AirBuddy, you can simply open your AirPods case next to your Mac and see the current status right away, just like how it works on your iPhone. A single click gets you connected, a swipe down lets you connect and change listenings modes at the same time. Fully customizable battery alerts help you keep track of your device's batteries.



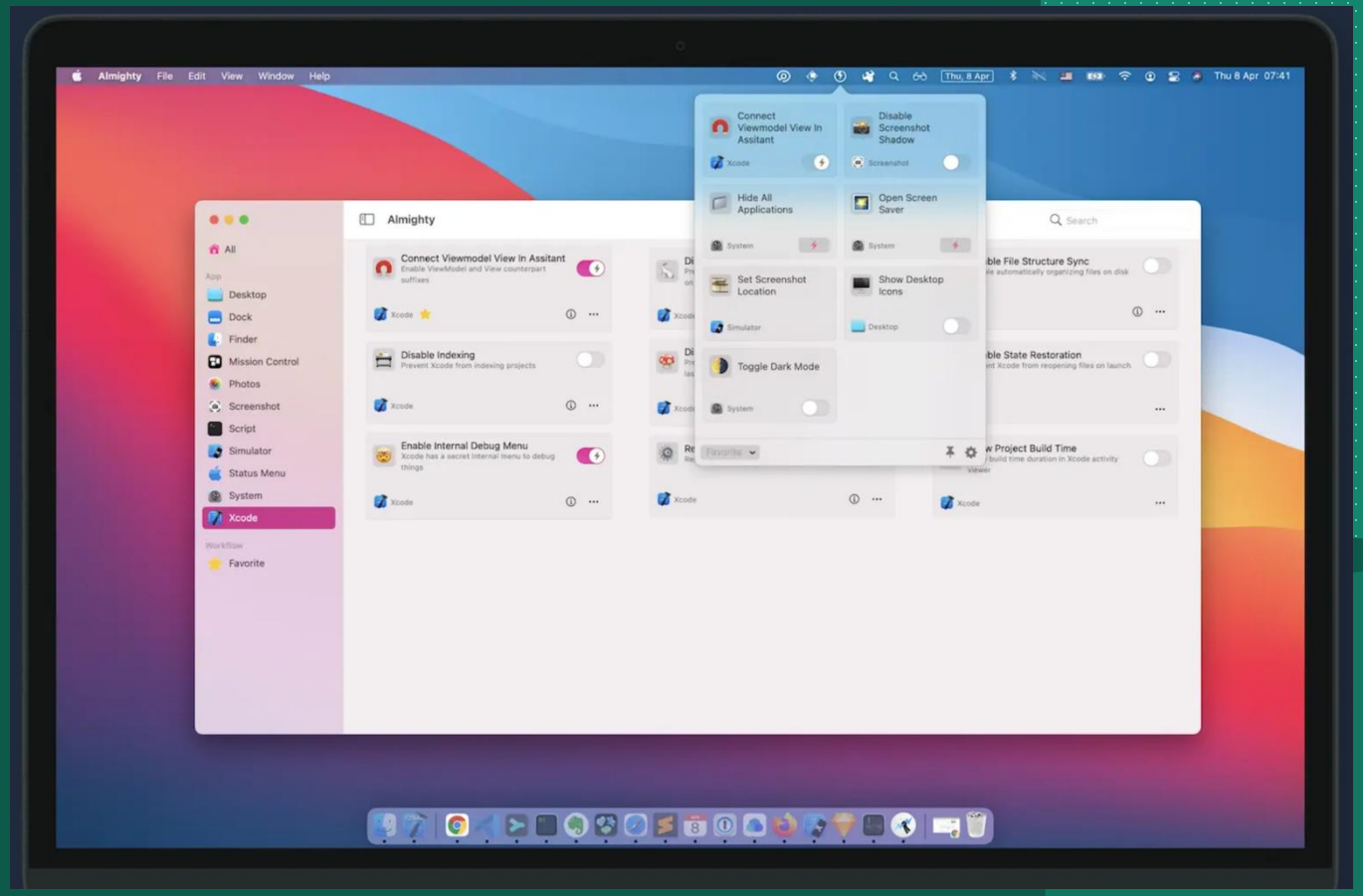


Cost-$12.99

Almighty

https://indiegoodies.com/almighty

"Over 50 cool Mac tweaks and extra utilities to supercharge your Mac experience. Your Mac is packing in many secret tricks you probably didn't even know existed. Becoming Mac power-user easily with Almighty"



Cost-$19.99 and also comes as a part of Setapp

Barbee

https://macsources.com/barbee-hide-menu-bar-items-mac-app-review/
https://apps.apple.com/us/app/barbee-hide-menu-bar-items/id1548711022?mt=12

"Barbee delivers a near-perfect experience for users seeking a simple yet effective menu bar utility. Its design combines elegance with practicality, making it approachable for beginners while still satisfying more seasoned users. The app's ease of use stands out, thanks to its intuitive layout and quick setup process. Its affordability and flexible pricing structure make it an exceptional value, especially for those on a budget or looking for a Bartender alternative."

93%
EXCELLENT

PROS

- ✓ Affordable with flexible pricing options.
- ✓ Lightweight app with a clean and intuitive interface.
- ✓ Advanced customization for hiding, showing, and grouping menu bar items.
- ✓ Automation capabilities and focus modes for tailored workflows.
- ✓ Excellent privacy — operates entirely offline with no data collection.
- ✓ Compatible with Macs with a notch and supports reducing menu bar spacing.

CONS

- ✗ Customer support is limited to email and WeChat, with no live chat or forum options.

DESIGN	90 %
EASE OF USE	90 %
PRICE	100 %

Cost-Free

CleanMyMac

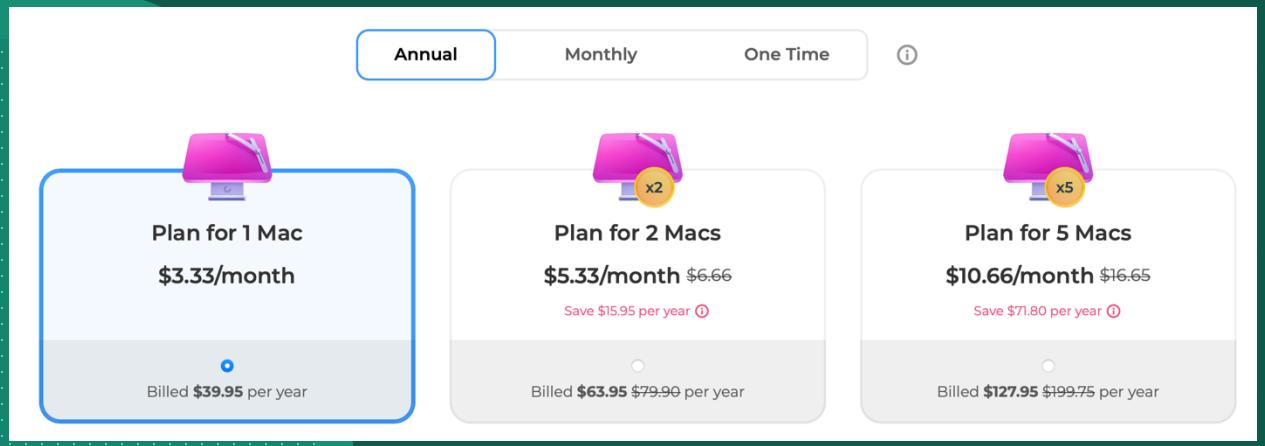
https://macpaw.com/cleanmymac

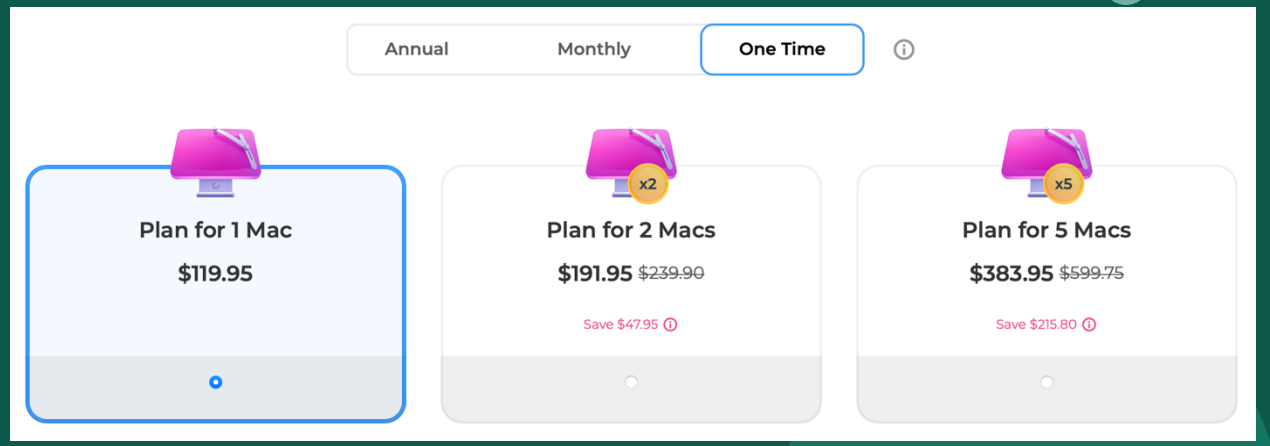
https://macsources.com/macpaw-launches-new-cleanmymac-the-smart-effortless-app-for-mac-care-news/

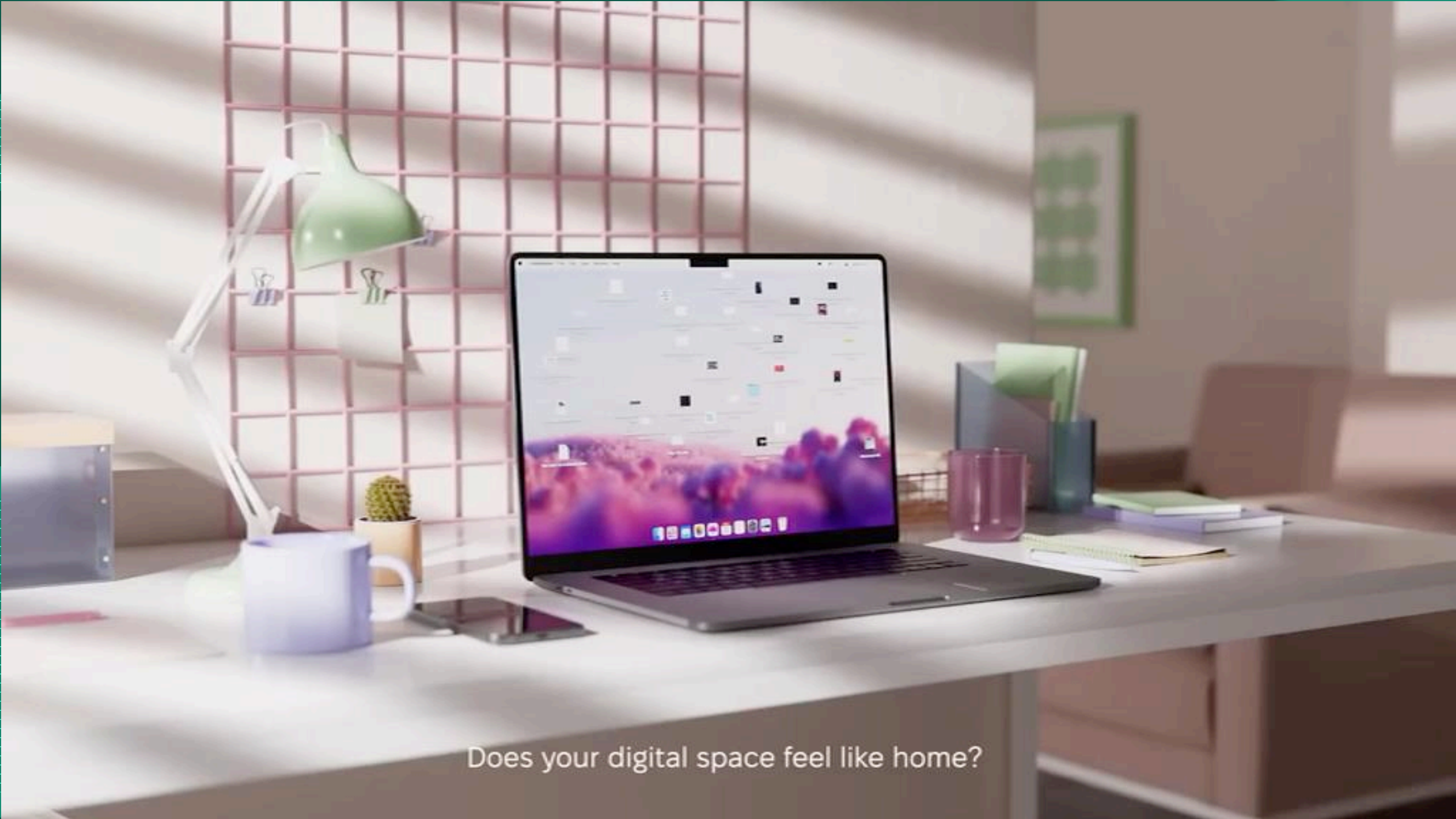
"Set your Mac free from clutter with CleanMyMac. This all-in-one Mac cleaner and maintenance app handles junk, duplicates, malware, and performance issues, making your Mac extra efficient and impeccably clean."

To me, this is the must have utility to keep your system running at optimal levels. I have it loaded on all of our Macs in my family. There is also a version for iPhone.

Pricing:



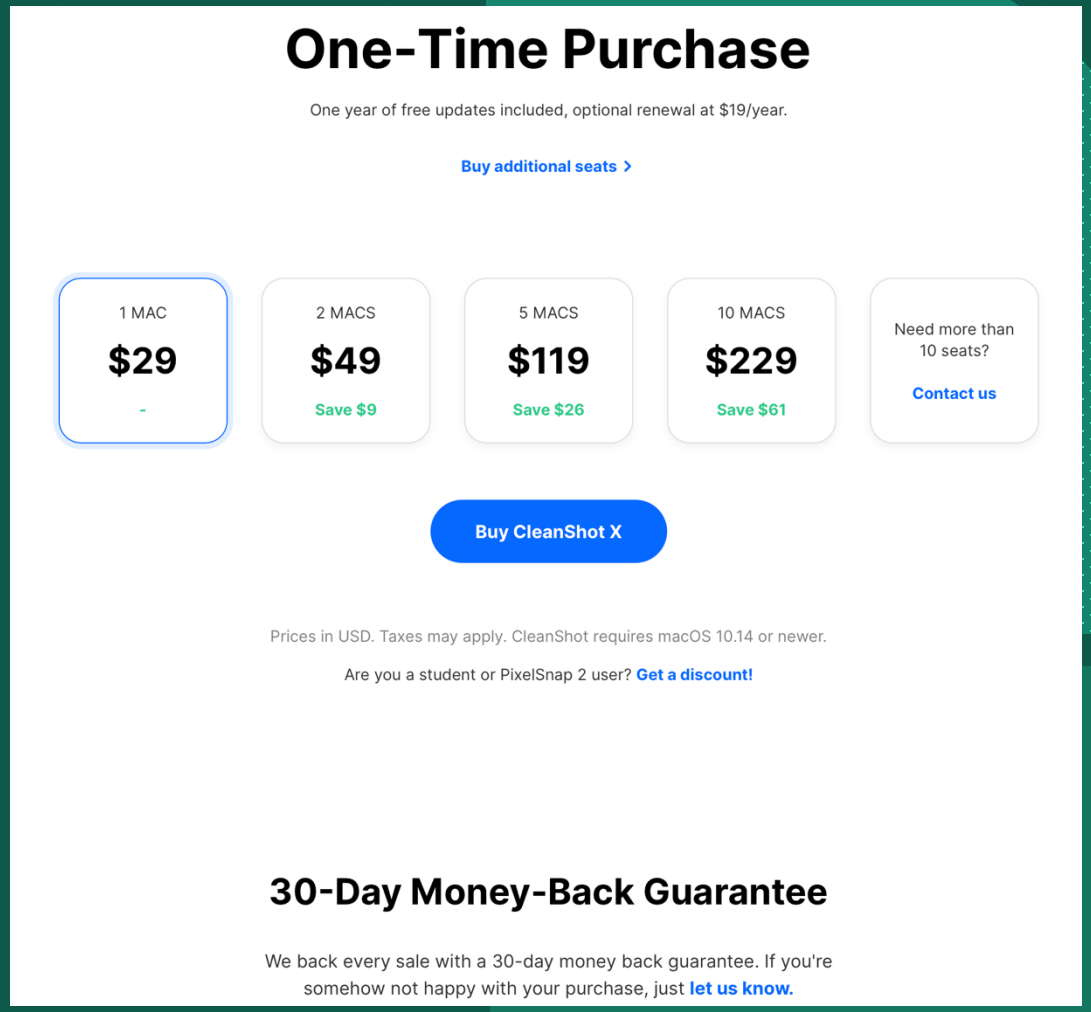



Does your digital space feel like home?

CleanShot X

https://cleanshot.com

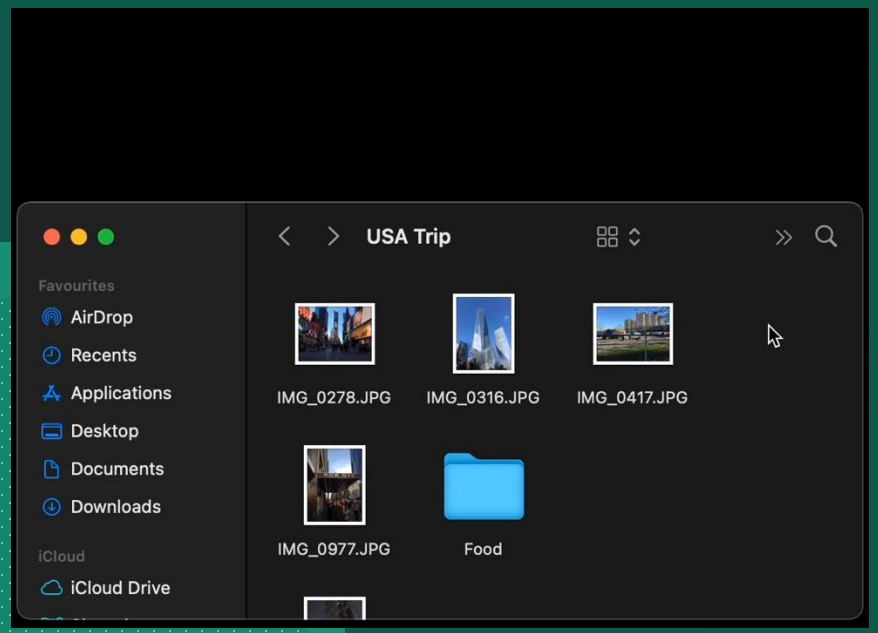
"CleanShot X provides over 50 features making it the ultimate screen capturing tool."

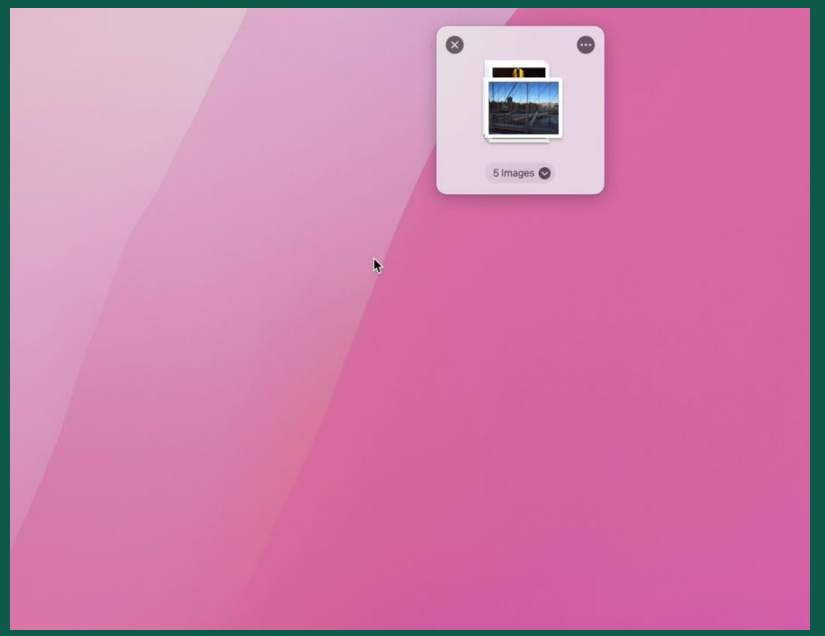


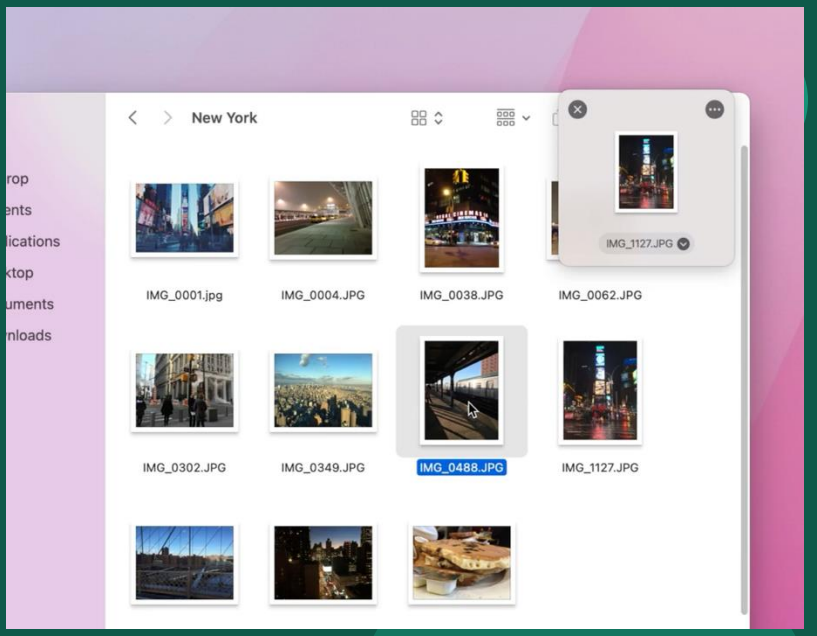
Dropover

https://dropoverapp.com

"Dropover is a drag and drop utility that makes it simple to collect, organize, share, and process files with floating shelves. It adds advanced drag-and-drop function for macOS users. It can be used to stash, gather, or move any draggable content without needing to open side-by-side windows. Dropover is designed for the modern user who works on multiple screens and is a great tool for both content creators and developers."





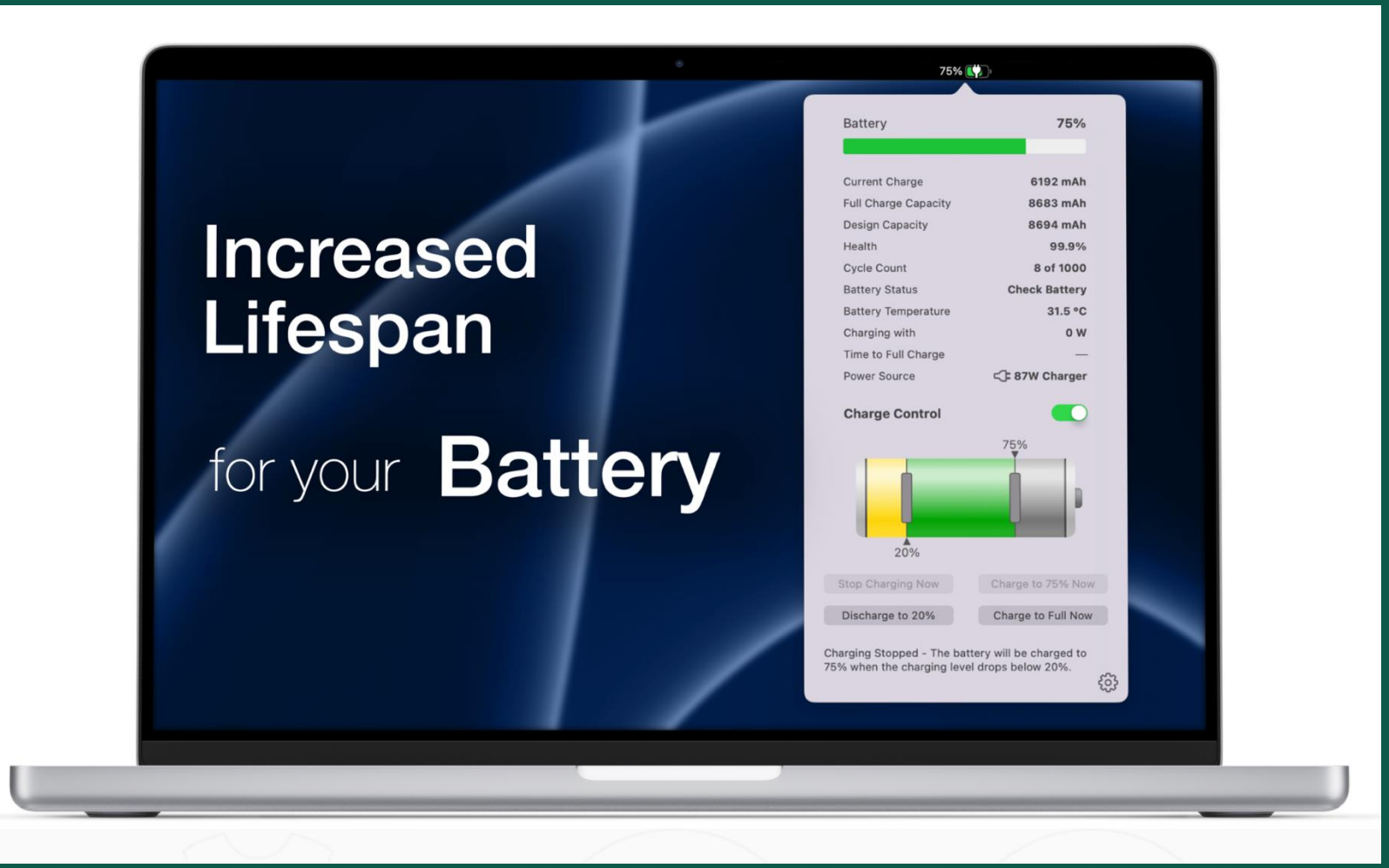


Pricing: Dropover is free to download and comes with a fully functional 14-day trial period. After the trial, you can continue using Dropover with a minor limitation—a 3-second wait before interacting with the shelf—or upgrade to Dropover Pro for a one-time in-app purchase of $6.99.

Energiza Pro

https://appgineers.de/energiza/

”Take control of your battery charging.”



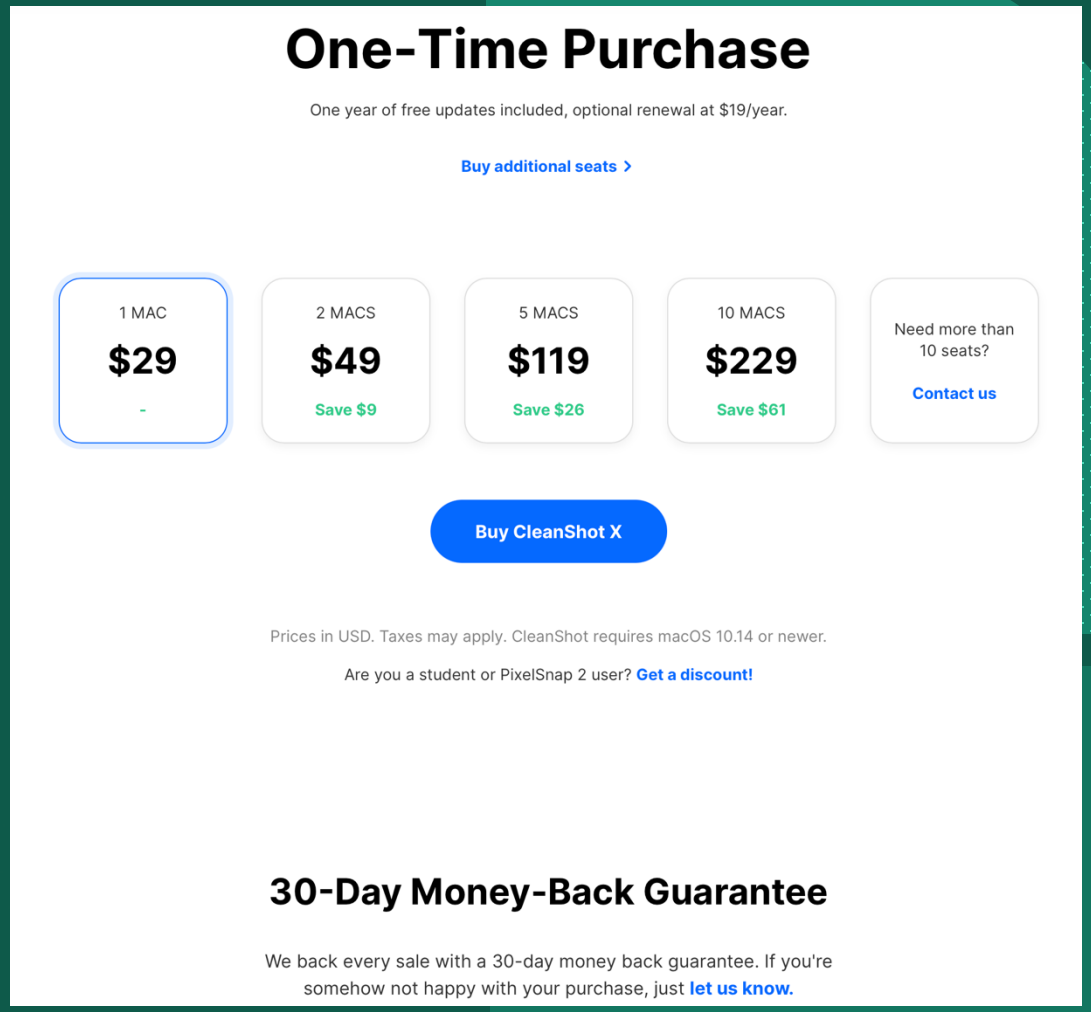
“Why is Energiza Pro a good idea?

Your MacBook’s battery has a limited lifespan. One reason the battery wears out is that it is constantly charged to high states when the MacBook is plugged in for an extended period. With Energiza Pro, you can take control of battery charging. It allows you to set individual charging limits and prevent high states of charge. In addition, instead of instantly beginning to charge once your MacBook is connected to external power, you can specify a lower charging limit. Once the battery level drops below this limit, the battery will be charged again. Your battery will most likely thank you with a longer lifespan!”

CleanShot X

https://cleanshot.com

"CleanShot X provides over 50 features making it the ultimate screen capturing tool."



Fing

https://www.fing.com

"Fing is a complete network monitoring solution for home and small offices that catalogs and secures your devices in one click."

Create a complete device inventory

Use our cutting-edge device recognition technology to effortlessly scan any network and get a comprehensive list of connected devices.

Learn more ›

Protect from intrusions

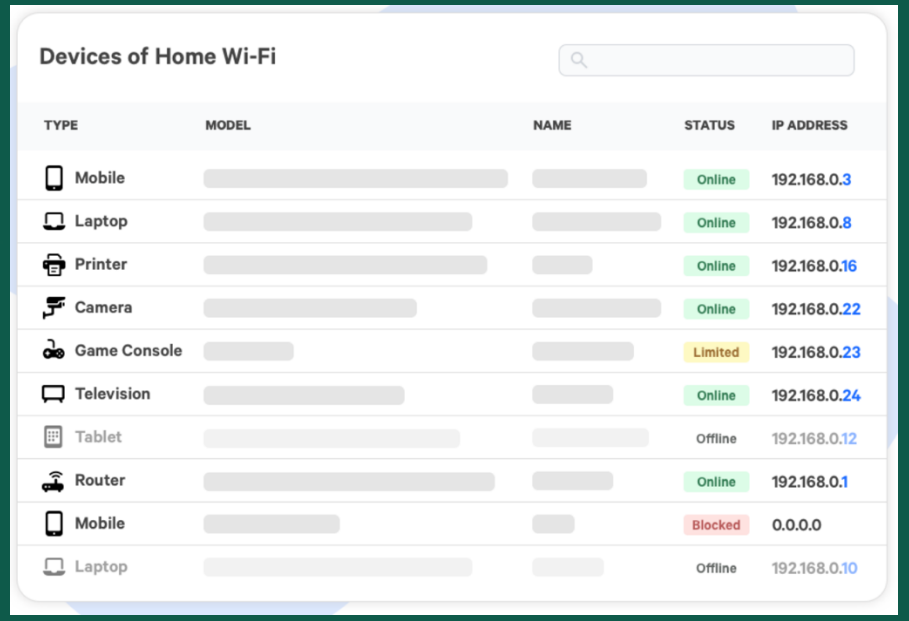
Gain complete control by excluding unwanted devices from your network, and enjoy the convenience of automatic blocking for all unknown entities.

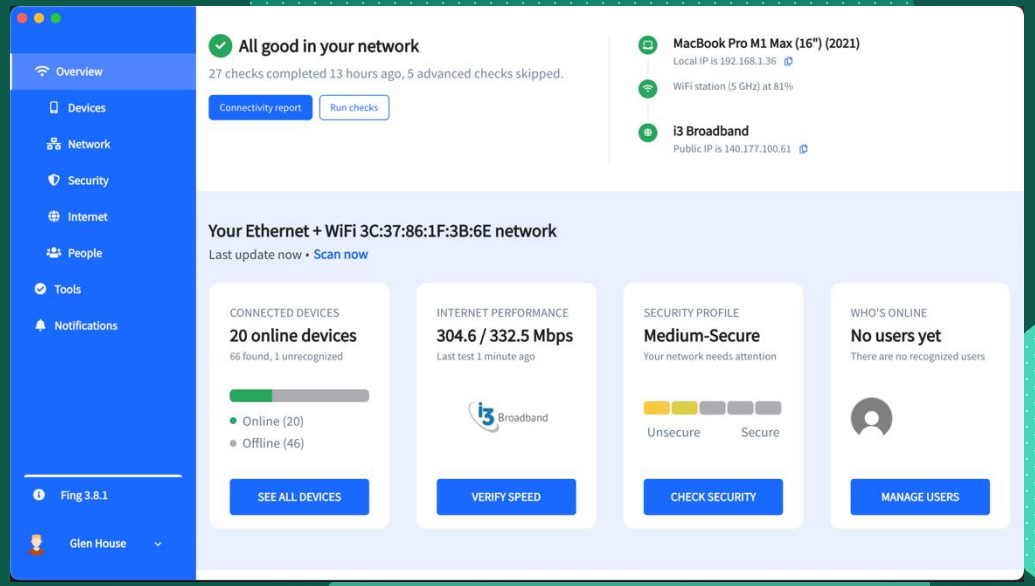
Learn more ›

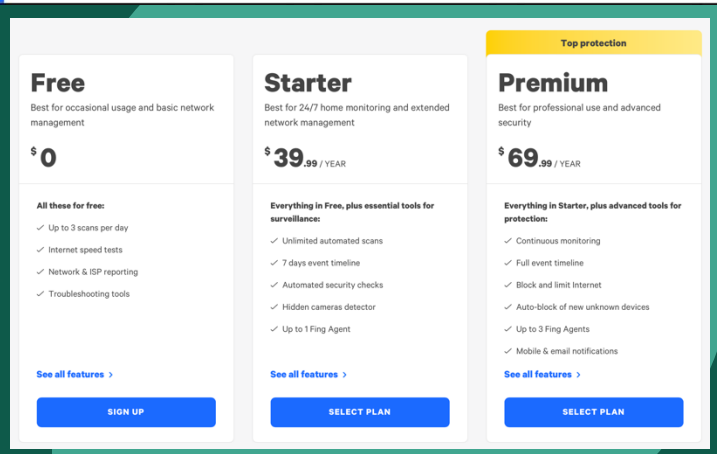
Track network events

Stay informed with real-time notifications about new devices, network outages, and vulnerabilities, with a complete event timeline for easy tracking.

Learn more ›



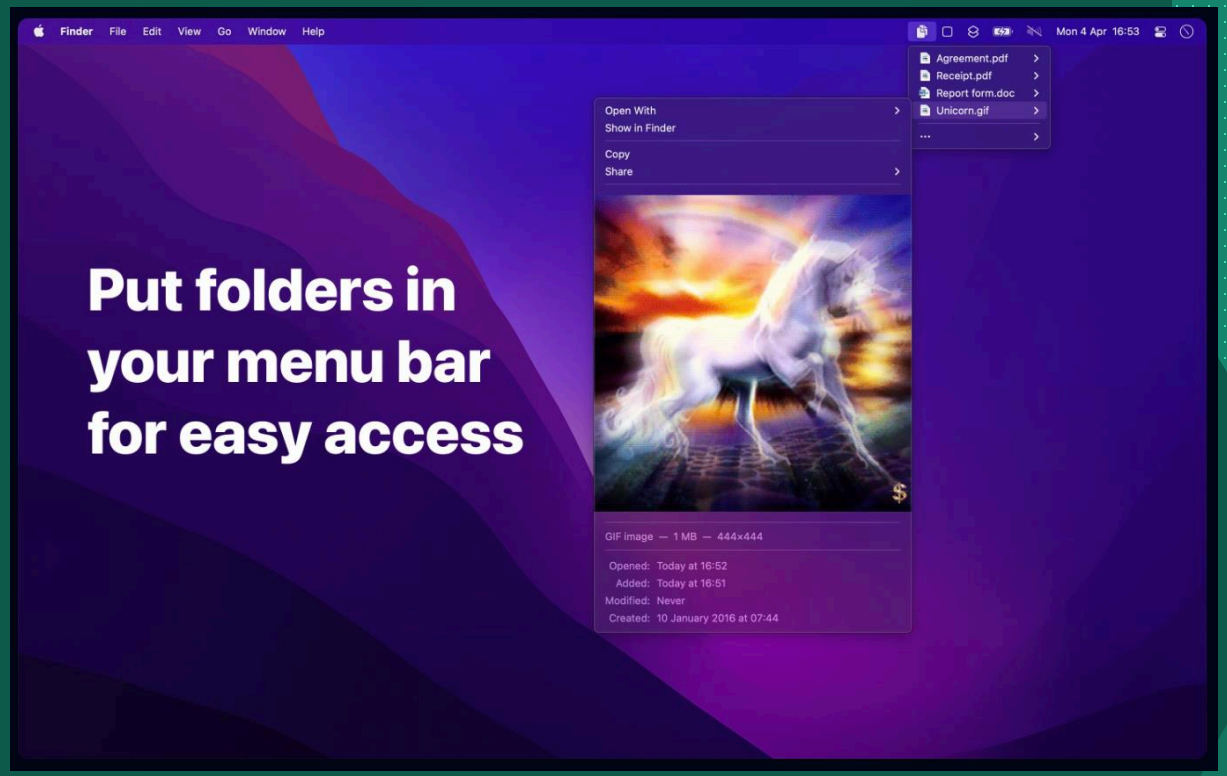


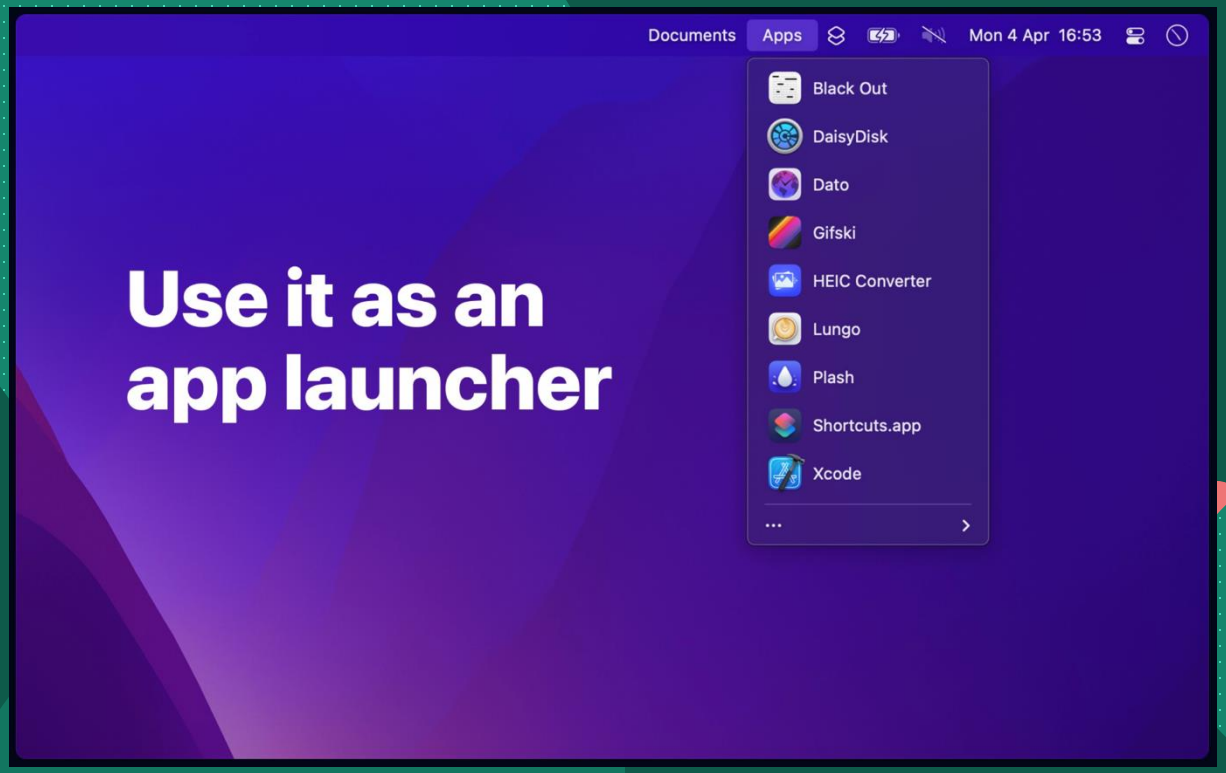


Folder Peek

https://sindresorhus.com/folder-peek

An app that puts a folder in your menu bar for easy access.

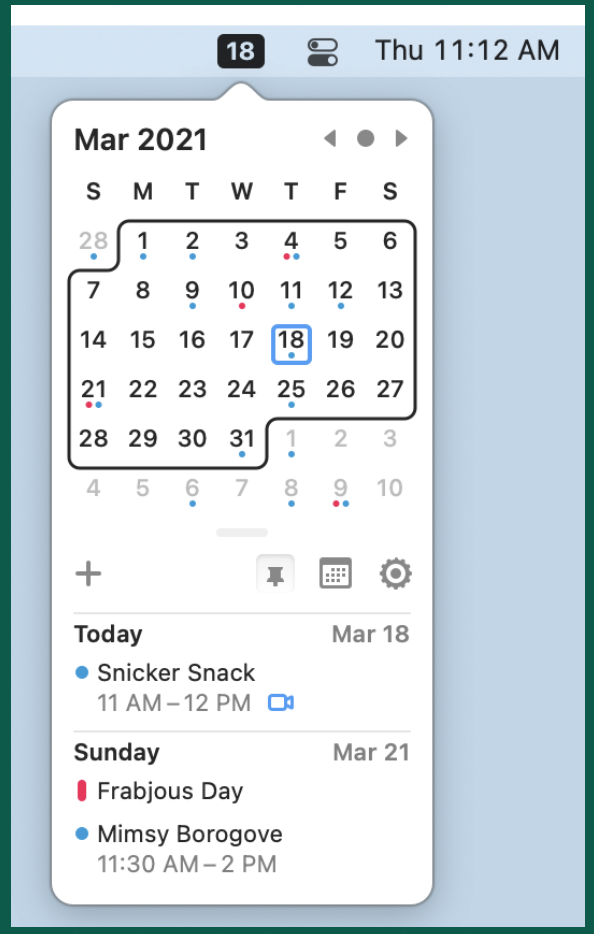


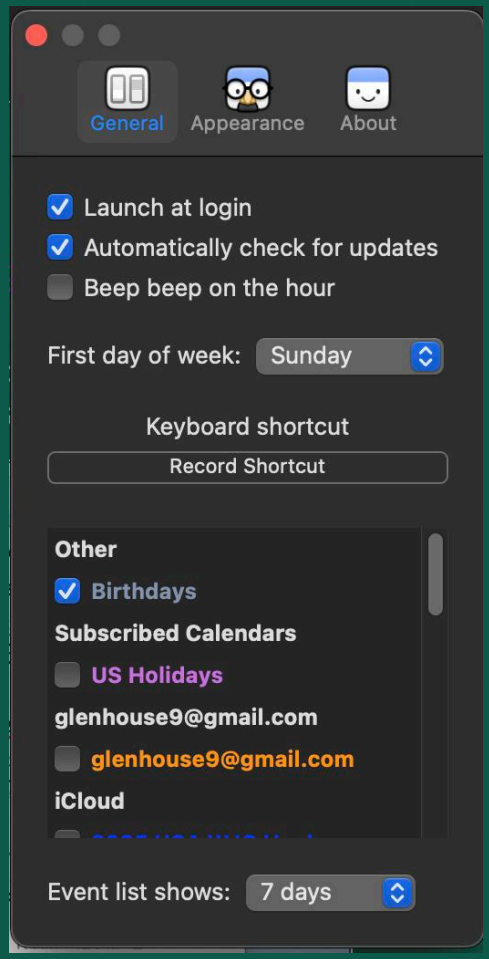


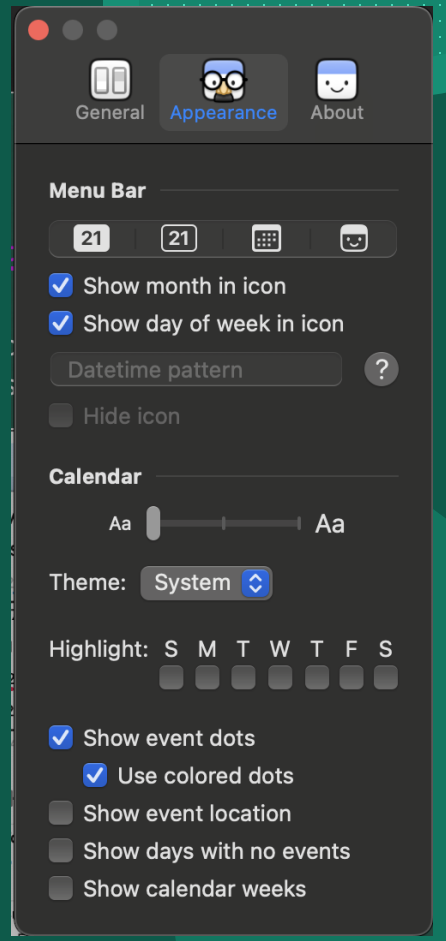
Itsycal

https://www.mowglii.com/itsycal/

Itsycal is a simple small calendar app that sits on your menu bar for easy access. It also integrates with the Apple Calendar app so that it will show events from your calendar. And the best thing is it's FREE!





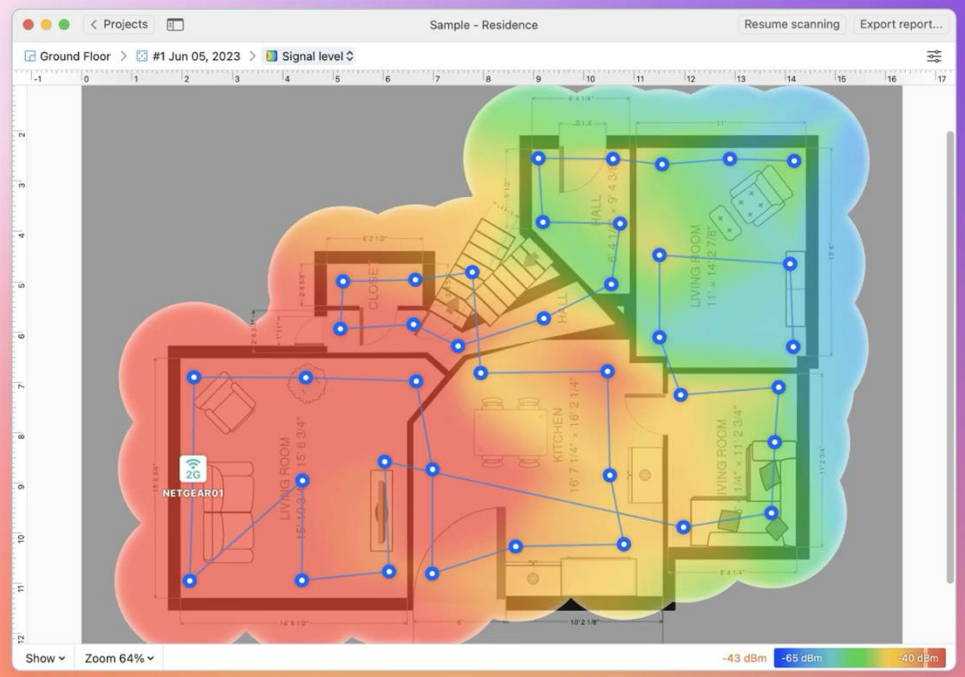


NetSpot

https://www.netspotapp.com

Network Planning and Wi-Fi Site Survey

NetSpot is a professional multiplatform app for Wi-Fi network planning, wireless site surveys, Wi-Fi analysis, and troubleshooting. Best in its class for over 10 years.



Available for macOS · iOS · Windows · Android

Home

Build a heatmap of your dwelling WiFi coverage, and discover the weakest spots

$59

Lifetime Upgrades for $19

Buy Now

- 1 user, personal use only
- Wi-Fi Inspector
- Wi-Fi site survey
- 2 zones, 2 snapshots
- 50 data points per zone
- 3 major visualizations
- Demo of Wi-Fi network planning

Pro Most popular

Survey and assess a wireless network coverage, perform an in-depth analysis

$199

Lifetime Upgrades for $49

Buy Now

- 1 user, commercial license
- Wi-Fi Inspector
- Wi-Fi site survey
- 50 zones, 50 snapshots
- 500 data points per zone
- All 20+ visualizations
- Wi-Fi network planning
- 7 predictive visualizations
- 1 free technician license

Enterprise

Survey, and service a wireless network in an office building, a warehouse, or even a stadium

$699

Lifetime Upgrades for $199

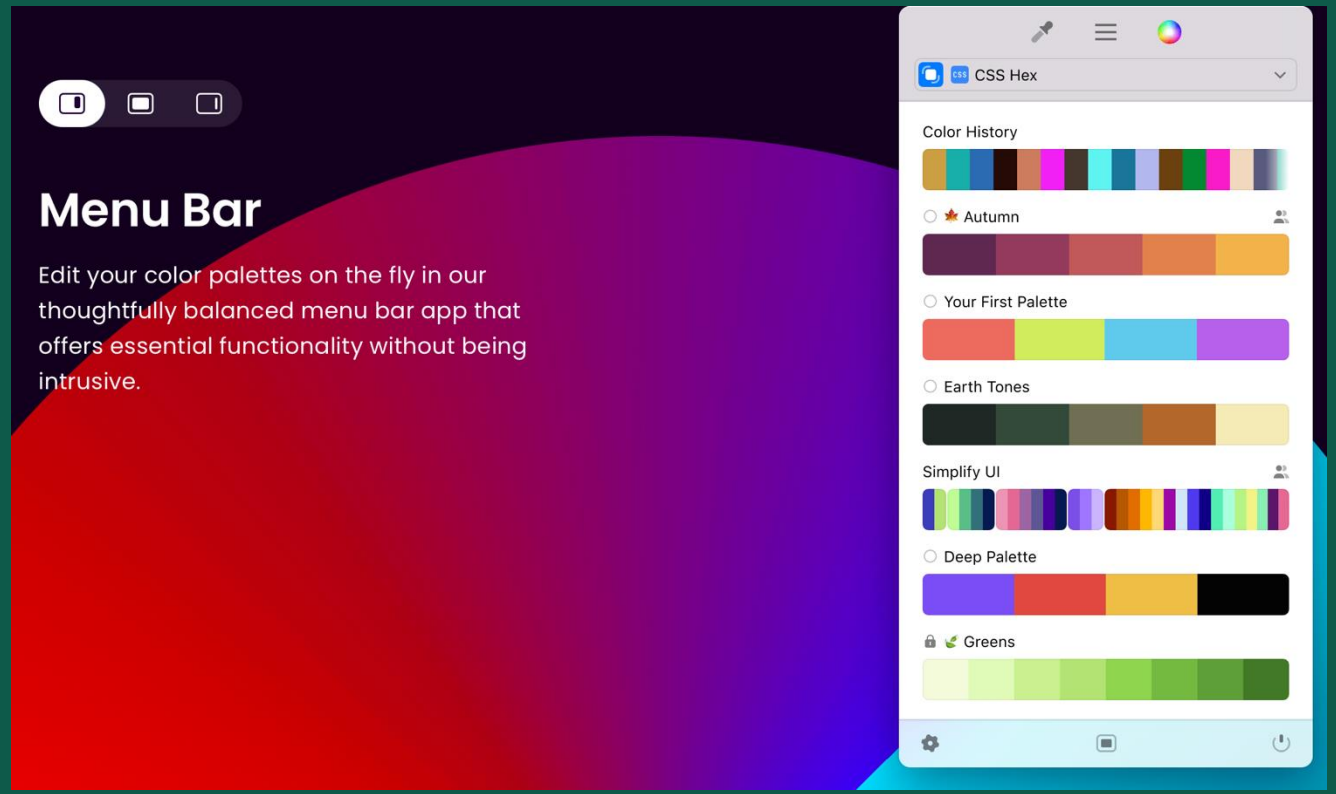
Buy Now

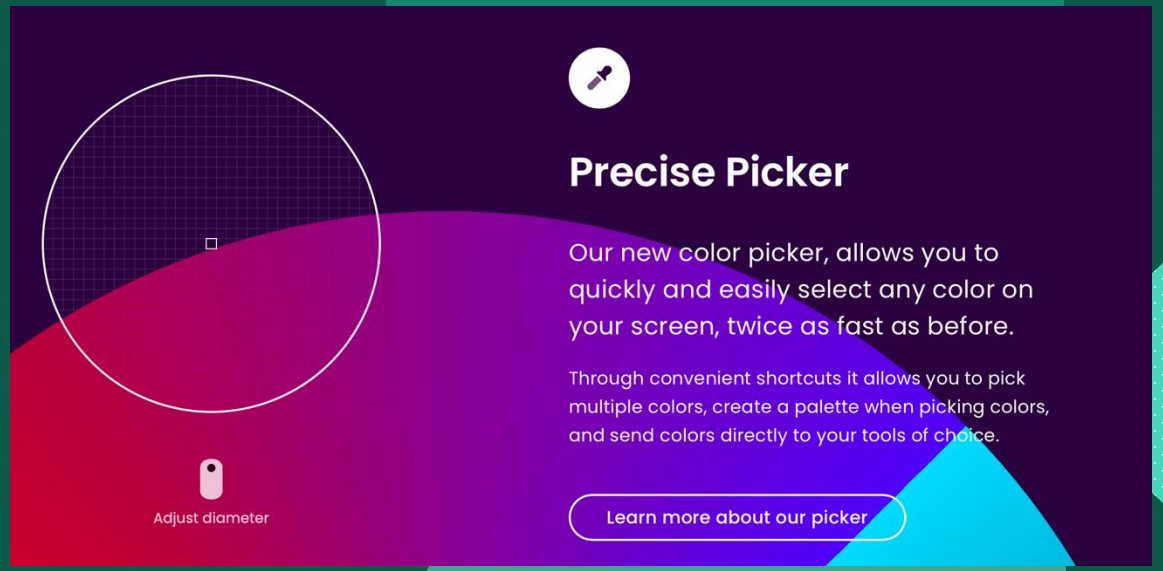
- 10 users, commercial license
- Wi-Fi Inspector
- Wi-Fi site survey
- Unlimited zones, snapshots
- Unlimited data points
- All 20+ visualizations
- Wi-Fi network planning
- 7 predictive visualizations
- 10 free technician licenses

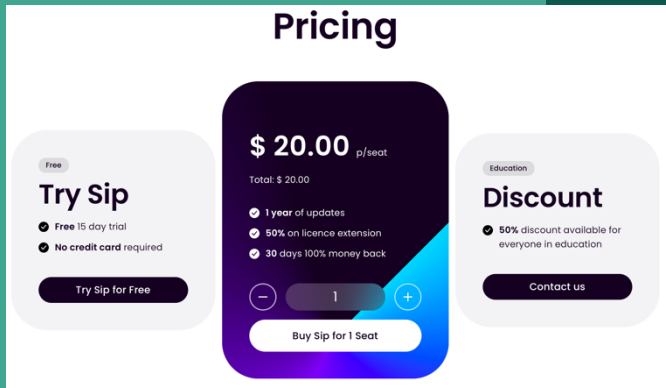
Sip

https://sipapp.io

Sip is a menu bar app that allows you to select a color on your screen to be able to match the color. From your picks you can create color paletes and check for contrasting colors to make something look good.



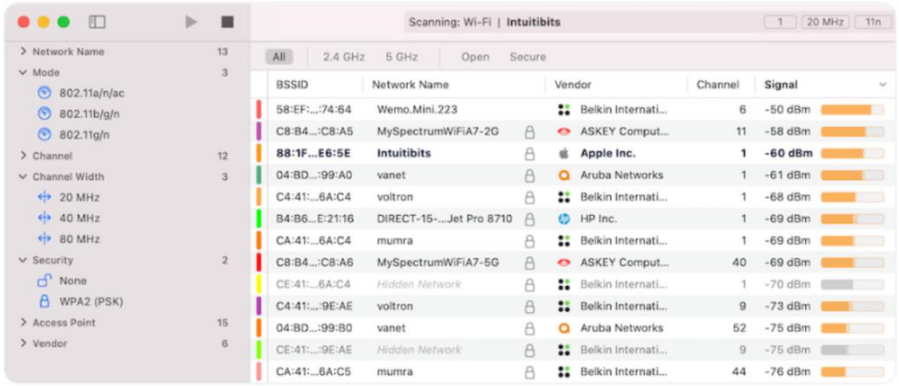




WiFi Explorer

https://www.intuitibits.com/products/wifiexplorer/

"Discover, monitor and troubleshoot wireless networks using your Mac's built-in Wi-Fi adapter."

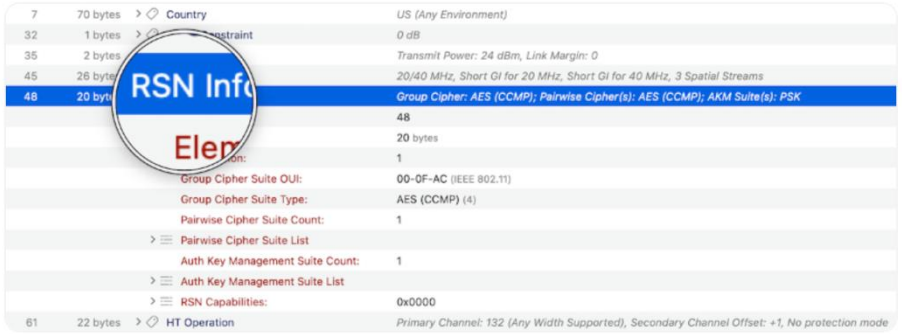


Everything you need to know

WiFi Explorer finds and displays the configuration of nearby Wi-Fi networks, including network name (SSID), BSSID, vendor, country code, channel, band, security configuration, supported data rates, number of streams, and much more.

Resolve Wi-Fi issues

Advanced features, such as the ability to decode network information, access point name discovery, and enhanced filtering, help you monitor and troubleshoot a variety of network environments, from home to small business networks.



Cost-$19.99/Also comes as a part of Setapp

Utilities mentioned by our members:

Reorder It: https://apps.apple.com/us/app/reorder-contacts-reorder-it/id583700229
Handbrake: https://handbrake.fr
Carbon Copy Cloner: https://bombich.com
Hyperspace: https://hypercritical.co
iterm2: https://iterm2.com
Neo Network Utility by Devon Technologies: https://www.devontechnologies.com/apps/freeware