bumpercar
version 2.0

manual

BumperCar

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1. Introduction

Welcome to BumperCar. Like the amusement park ride of the same name, BumperCar aims to provide a safe haven for your children to have fun. It allows you to dictate which World Wide Web sites your children can visit, within the parameters you set. The available options allow you to gear BumperCar's sensitivity towards a range of ages, from preschoolers to teenagers, and control who views what.

BumperCar's most important feature is its set of whitelists, which you can use to control the sites your children can visit, as opposed to filtering out content based on keywords, ratings, or other criteria (although you may also use these options.) The browser comes with long lists of kid-friendly sites; you may also add your own.

You'll notice when you launch BumperCar that it defaults to a homepage that allows kids to browse sites in different categories and even enter a mystery tunnel that whisks them away to a random whitelist site. Kids can also have fun using the arrow keys to move the bumper car around the screen and bounce off the walls. BumperCar also has a school mode for classroom use, a pre-school mode for very young children, and is localized for English and Spanish; all of which are discussed later in the manual.

home (young children) mode

education (young children) mode
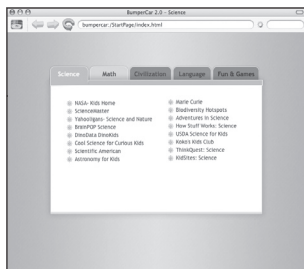
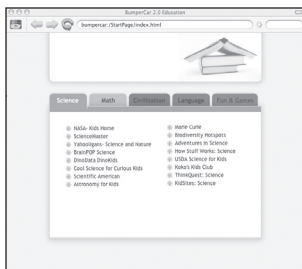home (older children) mode

education (older children) mode
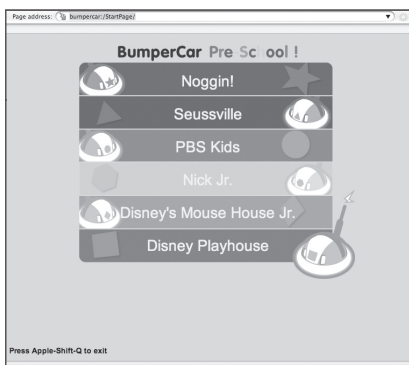
pre-school mode

Read on to learn more about the homepage as well as the rest of BumperCar's features. Any time you're stuck while using the browser, pull down the Help menu and click "BumperCar Help" to access an HTML version of this manual. You can also access it by clicking the question mark in the Safety Settings and Preferences windows, which are found under the Grown-Ups menu.

[1] Because links by their nature point to dynamic sites outside of our control, Freeverse, Inc. can't guarantee the suitability of any link provided within BumperCar for any purpose. BumperCar is a tool, not a replacement for parental oversight.

2. Installation And System Configuration

2.1 System Requirements

Any G3 or better based Macintosh computer
Mac OS X 10.4 or better
128 MB of RAM

2.2 Installing And Configuring BumperCar

1) Insert the BumperCar CD-ROM into your Macintosh computer.

2) Once the disk is recognized, a window will appear in the Finder showing the contents of the BumperCar CD.

3) Find the BumperCar application in this window. Drag this to your Applications folder on the root of your hard drive.
Please note: It is crucial that you install BumperCar in the main Applications folder so all users of your computer can access it.

4) Eject the CD-ROM and store it safely in the event you need to reinstall.

5) If you do not already have a separate user account for your child in Mac OS X, proceed to the next section to learn how to set up Mac OS X for BumperCar. If you already have a separate account, you may need to add BumperCar to the allowed applications for this user. Refer to the below section for instructions on how to do this.

6) Log in with your child's account and launch BumperCar. You will need to enter an administrator's password twice - once to install the necessary files, and once to open the Security Settings window.

7) Check the security settings and change them as you deem best for your child. Refer to Section 3 of this manual to learn more about the individual settings.
8) Close the Security Settings window, and your browser is ready to go!

2.3 Setting Up Mac OS X For BumperCar

Please note: These instructions were written for Mac OS X 10.4 "Tiger" If you are using a newer or older version of OS X, some functionality may be different than described in this manual. Consult the OS X help for your particular version of Mac OS X.

Whether you're a parent or a teacher, you probably want to limit not only where your kids can go on the Web, but also what they can do on your computer. After all, what good does it do to limit their Web surfing if they can just load Microsoft Internet Explorer or Apple's Safari browser and get around the limits that you've set up? And if you're a teacher, you may want your students to only use BumperCar while you're teaching, or you may find them going off on non-educational tangents.

Luckily, Apple built a feature into Mac OS X that gives you the control you need. It's the user function. When you installed Mac OS X, you probably set yourself up as the default user, which is also known as the admin. This is the account that gives you complete control over your Mac, and it's probably not the one you want your kids to use.

Instead, you'll want to set up new user accounts for them; those accounts will keep them out of your personal information because everything in your Home folder will be off-limits. To create new accounts, open System Preferences and click on Accounts. You'll see the list of accounts on your computer on the left and a series of panes on the right. At the bottom of the list of windows you'll notice plus and minus buttons. Click the plus button.

Now you'll notice that a new user appears in the window above. To the right, you can enter that person's name and give them a password. You can also click on the Picture pane to give them a picture that's shown next to their name in the Mac OS X login window.

Next, click on the Parental Controls pane. Check the "Finder and System" checkbox and then press "Configure". This will open a pulldown menu that will let you set up the account. You can set up the account any way you would like.
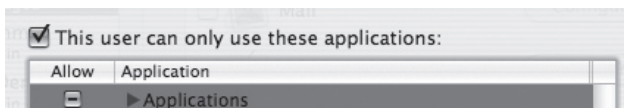
Near the middle of the pulldown menu there is a check box named "This user can only use these applications:" you will want to check it. Then check the box next to Applications and press the triangle to view all the applications on the computer. Scroll down and check any items you want the user to have access to and uncheck any items you do not want them to have access to. Be sure to check Bumper Car 2, or they cannot use it.
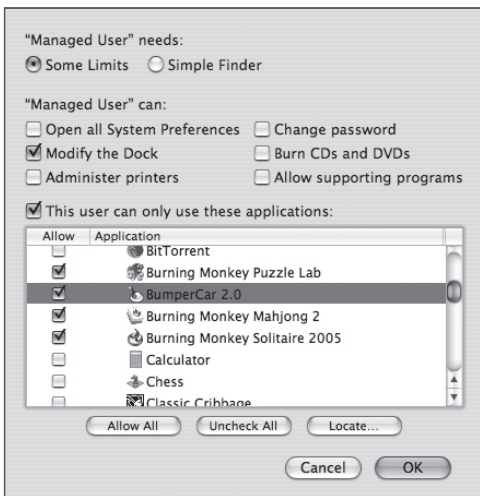
You can use the "Allow All" button to give the user access to everything in the folder on the right, but you probably won't want to do that with the Applications folder, so click the "Uncheck All" button at the bottom to deselect everything in that folder. Now check each application that this user should be able to access. Do the same for the other folders.

You'll notice that this new user has the word "Managed" under their name in the list to the left. That means they're not an admin and they can't make crucial changes to the computer. Finally, click "Login Options" at the bottom of that list and take the check mark off the box next to "Automatically log in as." Now anyone who starts the computer will see a login window and they will have to choose their user name and enter their password to use it.

To make sure no one else can get into the Security pane and possibly set a master password without you knowing it, (if you accidentally leave your computer logged in, for example,) click the lock in the bottom left corner. Now if someone tries to unlock it, they will need an admin password.

Finally, when you're done using your Mac, click on the Apple menu and select "Log Out [user name]...". That will log you out and bring your computer to the login window, where you can put it to sleep if you want. The next person to use it will have to click their user name and enter their password.

3. Safety Settings

You'll find the Safety Settings under the Safety menu. Make sure you know your administrator's password for Mac OS X when you click it, because you won't be able to access the safety settings without it. If your children know your password, it's time to change it so that they can't access this area of BumperCar.

3.1 General
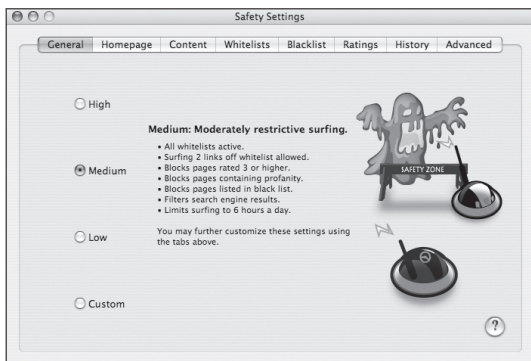
The first pane in the Safety Settings dialog box is General, which offers three basic settings of surfing restrictions: high, medium, and low. You'll notice that clicking each button changes the settings in the other panes, so you can use this as a basic way to set restrictions. If you'd prefer a set of custom settings, you can make those changes individually in the other panes; the setting in this pane will then automatically become Custom.

3.2 Homepage
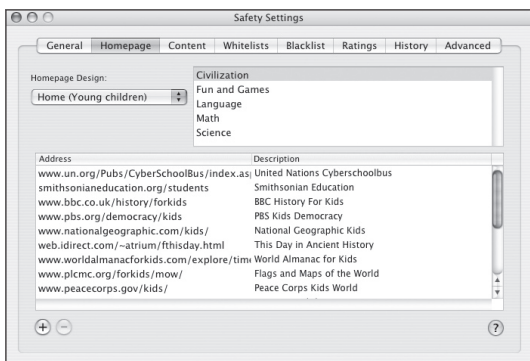
The Homepage pane allows you to choose between six homepage designs in the drop-down menu on the left: Home (Young Children), Home (Older Children) Education (Young Children), Education (Older Children), Pre-School and Custom. Home modes display a homepage (the screen seen when you first launch BumperCar, or when you click the bumper car icon in the top left of the browser window) that allows kids to move the bumper car around the screen with the arrow keys and includes a link to resources for parents in the bottom left corner of the page. Education modes disable the ability to move the bumper car around the screen, thus keeping students' attention focused on you, and changes the parentsí resources link to one for teachers. It also adds a chalkboard border or school books as a handy visual cue. Pre-School mode expands the browser window to full screen and disables most interface elements, allowing you to be sure young children won't accidentally close a window or type in random URLs. **You may quit the application by pressing Command-Q, or you may break out of Pre-School mode by pressing Command-Option-Q.** Select Custom and you can enter a webpage of your choice to be Bumpercar's home page.

On the right, the Homepage pane displays the five categories shown on the homepage. You can click each one to see the sites it

contains listed in the box below; use the plus and minus buttons to add or remove sites. If you select the Education design, you can also enter your institution's name in the field at the bottom of the pane for display at the top of the homepage. Links are maintained separately between the Home and Education modes. This can be useful in a home schooling environment.

3.3 Content
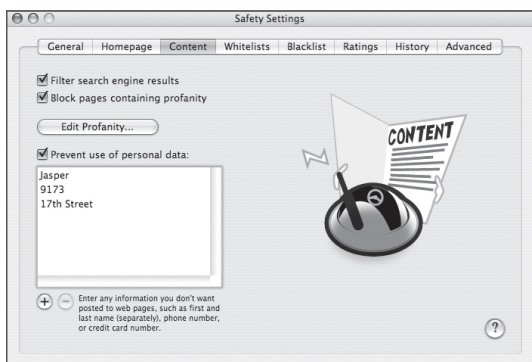
The next pane is Content. The "Filter search engine results" check box will compare Internet searches against your content restrictions and remove questionable results. If you activate "Block pages containing profanity," BumperCar will check Web pages against a list of profane words and block any that contain one or more matching words. You'll notice that you can add your own words to the list if you click the "Edit Profanity..." button; simply click the plus button and enter the new word, or highlight a word and click the minus button to remove it. Click "Done" when you're finished. A note on formatting -- you'll notice some curse words have blank spaces added before or after the word. This is an important tool because it limits the profanity filter from blocking all words that might contain those same letters. For example, adding spaces to both ends of a curse word will tell BumperCar to just block the word itself, not the sequence

of letters which might appear inside larger words, such as "Association" and "Shitaki" mushroom. Without these spaces, "Association" and "Shitaki" would also be blocked.

The third safety setting in the Content pane is the "Prevent use of personal data" box. Once checked, it restricts anything in the fields below from being entered into online forms. For example, you can list names (first and last should be listed separately, as they're usually apart in online forms), addresses, credit card numbers, or anything else you don't want your kids to transmit on the Web. If they enter any of the data in an online form, it will be automatically be replaced with astericks (*). As with the pro-fanity dialog box, click the plus button to add words or highlight words and click the minus button to remove them.

3.4 Whitelists
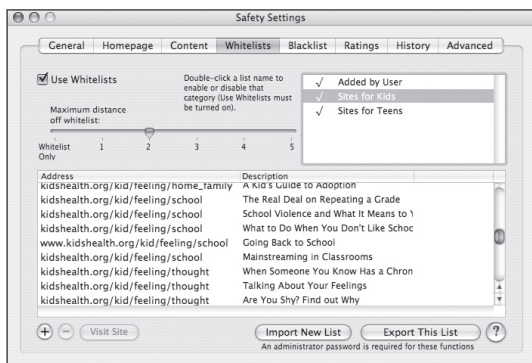
Next is the Whitelists pane, which allows you to restrict your children's surfing to only Web sites listed in this pane. You can check the box next to "Use Whitelists" and then turn on and off individual lists in the box on the right. We've set up two lists of over 30,000 sites, organized by maturity level. You can add and delete Web sites to and from these lists with the plus and minus buttons at the bottom, or click on the "Added by User" list if you'd prefer to keep your additions separate.

You can double-click the URL or name of each site in the whitelists to edit them, and clicking "Visit Site" will take you to the highlighted site so that you can view it for yourself. In addition, if you'd like to make a whitelist available to other teachers or parents, or as a set of bookmarks in another browser, simply highlight it, click "Export This List," and save it to your hard drive. Similarly, you can import a whitelist by clicking "Import New List" and locating it on your hard drive.

When you import a whitelist, make sure it's a plain text file. (If you select "Save As..." in most word processing programs, you will be able to choose plain text as an option.)

The links contained in the whitelist should be written this way:

[URL] Tab [Title] Return

So, for example, you could have a whitelist with these entries:

|	
http://www.apple.com	**Apple**
http://www.freeverse.com	**Freeverse**

Create the space between the Web address and the site's title with the Tab key and then press Return after each entry. This makes sure that BumperCar places the URLs and the titles in the proper fields in the whitelist pane. Whitelists exported by BumperCar will be automatically saved in this format.

Because the Internet is dynamic and ever-changing, Freeverse will host whitelists so that you can share the ones you've compiled with other users. Please visit the BumperCar homepage **http://www.freeverse.com/bumpercar/** for more information and to contribute your whitelists.

The slider under the "Use Whitelists" checkbox, "Maximum distance off whitelist," dictates whether users are restricted only to whitelisted sites or if they can move off those sites by up to five links. For example, if the slider is set to two, a child can visit

a whitelisted site, click a link and go to a second site, and then click a link from there and go to a third site, but any links clicked on the last site will not be allowed. A child can go back to the first or second site and click new links, but they're still bound by the number you set. The idea behind this feature is that sites appropriate for children will almost always only link to sites that are also appropriate for children.

Because the "Distance Off Whitelist" feature allows your child to access sites not explicitly on the whitelist, there is an obvious decrease in the protection offered by BumperCar. There is a tremendous advantage however, in terms of improving the child's online experience. The Web is designed as a large network, and in a similar way to the "6 Degrees of Separation" phenomena, allowing a distance off whitelist of just two will enable your child to visit hundreds of thousands, if not millions of more safe sites then they otherwise could.
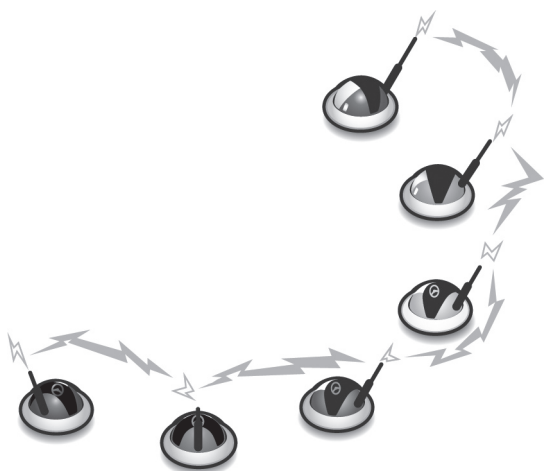
3.5 Blacklists
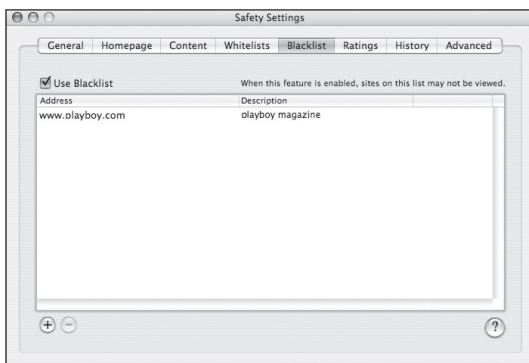
The Blacklists pane works the same as the Whitelists one, except it forbids your children from ever accessing the sites listed there. As in the other panes, click the plus button to add sites and the minus button to delete them. Make sure you check the box next to "Use Blacklist" to activate the list. Why are blacklists useful in addition to whitelists? Here's a few examples:

- You want to block your child from checking their webmail.

- You want to block a site or page that offends your personal beliefs or morals but would fall within the included whitelist.

- You want to allow access to all of a site except one page.

3.6 Ratings
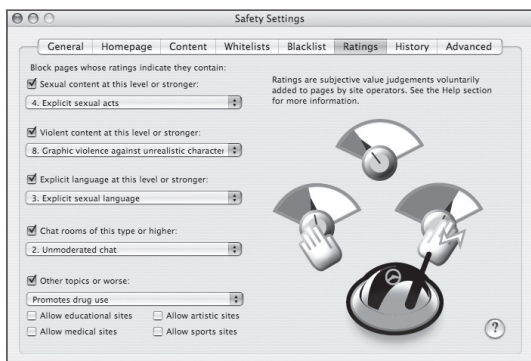
The next pane, Ratings, relies on Web site ratings to block sites that contain varying degrees of violent and sexual content, as well as explicit language, unmoderated chat rooms, and other potentially dangerous subject matter. The checkboxes turn content restrictions on and off, and the drop-down menu under each one displays a range of offenses, from mild at the top to extreme at the bottom. We use the ratings provided by the Internet Content Rating Association (ICRA; www.icra.org); Web site designers can embed the ratings in their code and warn a user what content to expect before they arrive.

Four checkboxes under the ratings settings allow you to make exceptions to these ratings for educational, sports, medical, and artistic sites. For example, a medical site might have a detailed drawing of male or female genitals, something ordinarily not allowed if you set the sexual content drop-down menu to its highest level.

Unfortunately, because ratings are voluntary, most sites on the Internet are unrated.

3.7 History
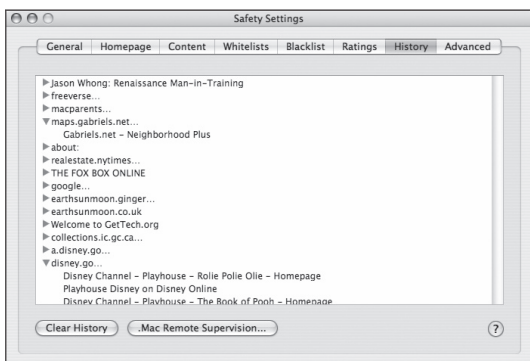
The History pane contains a history field that works like the history feature found in other Web browsers. You can use it to check which sites your kids have visited; as an administrator, you can click the "Clear History" button at the bottom to clear the window.

.Mac Remote Supervision

BumperCar can be configured to allow you to monitor your child's browsing history in any Web browser from anywhere that can access the World Wide Web.

You must be a .Mac member to take advantage of the remote supervision feature. To sign up for .Mac, please visit http://www.apple.com/dotmac.

Let's take a moment to show you how to set up remote supervision.

1. Under the **Safety** menu, click **Safety Settings**. (You're already here!)

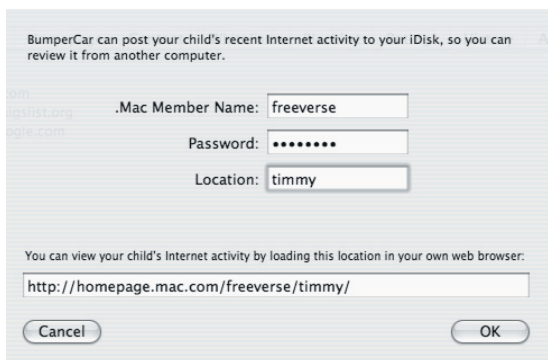2. In the **History** tab, click **.Mac Remote Supervision.**

3. You're going to need a few pieces of information to finish, so let's cover those:

.Mac Member Name: This is the part of your .Mac e-mail address before the "@mac.com" part.

Password: Enter the password you use for other .Mac services. Your password is sent to .Mac securely.

Location: BumperCar can monitor multiple user accounts, so you need a way to identify them uniquely. It's a good idea to use names, since they're easy to remember!

The location field will translate the name you enter to a URL that can be accessed from any Web browser. You can enter this URL into your Web browser's address bar (usually by pressing ⌘-L) to access your child's history remotely.

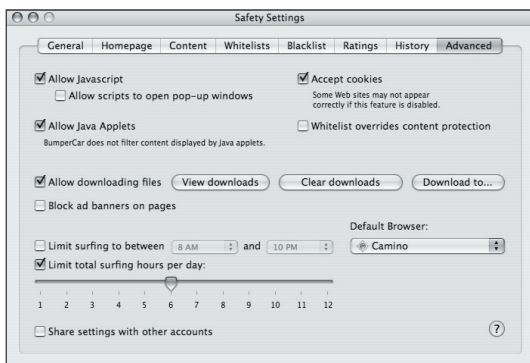4. Once you've entered your information, click **Verify.** BumperCar will then verify it with the .Mac service. If you entered your information incorrectly, BumperCar will let you know and you can try again.

5. After your information has been verified, click **OK.**

3.8 Advanced
(Java, JavaScript, Ad Blocking, Cookies, Time Limits)

The final pane, Advanced, gives you a finer degree of control over your kids' Web surfing habits. It contains checkboxes that dictate whether the Web sites your kids visit can run Javascripts or Java applets, or whether they can download files. Javascript is a computer language that can run small programs to submit forms or perform other interactive functions.

Note that a separate box must be checked if you want to allow Javascripts to open new windows; this is important as it allows you to block pop-up ads, something you may want to do even if you're not planning on using BumperCar's other safety settings.

Java applets are small programs that allow you to play a game, watch a short video clip, or enjoy some other multimedia experience in a browser window. By their nature, Java applets can't be filtered, so keep that in mind when deciding whether to allow this function. And because there's no way to filter the content of a file or an ad banner either, you may want to keep your kids from downloading files from Web sites by leaving the box unchecked. If you want to block ad banners, however, you'll need to check that box.

Ad Blocking will attempt to suppress graphics coming from known internet ad agencies or matching standard ad dimensions. This may effect the layout of some pages and in rare cases can even affect the functionality of certain web pages.

At the bottom of the Advanced pane, you can limit your kids' Web surfing to certain times of the day as well as a total number of hours. For example, you might limit their Web surfing to between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., with a total of five hours. Therefore, if they're online from 8 a.m. straight through to 1 p.m., they're done for the day because they hit the total hours limit.

You can also choose how you wish cookies to be handled. Cookies are packets of basic information that many Web sites place in BumperCar when you visit them. (They don't contain personal data such as names, addresses, and so forth.) When you visit those sites again, they recognize you by accessing the cookie in BumperCar and personalizing their layout for you. That's how Amazon.com, for example, can greet you by name and make product recommendations every time you visit. You can decide whether or not BumperCar will accept cookies, but be aware that some sites require that your Web browser accept them before you can visit.

4. How to Use BumperCar

4.1 Getting Started
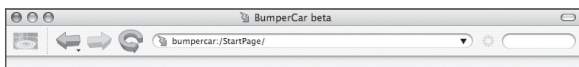
BumperCar works like many of the other Web browsers you've used in the past. To keep it simple, though, we've limited the

main toolbar to the forward and backward buttons, as well as a reload button that turns into a stop button while a site is loading. To the left of those buttons is one that will return you to the homepage.

The Web address field features the ability to get to a Web site by simply typing the main word in the URL; for example, to visit www.apple.com, you can just type "apple" and BumperCar will fill in the rest.

The field to the right of the Web address field is for Google searches. Simply enter your query and press the Return key to instantly go to the Google site and peruse the results. Searches done in this manner will be affected by search filtering restrictions as assigned in the Security Settings.

4.2 About URLs

Just as a street address and a map can help you find a building, there's a common convention for the kind of addresses used to locate web sites on the Internet. These addresses are known as Universal Resource Locators, or URLs. For example, our URL is http://www.freeverse.com/. A closer look at it:

   • **http** stands for **HyperText Transfer Protocol**. A protocol is the "language" spoken between your computer and a server on the Internet; HTTP is the protocol most often used for retrieving web pages. BumperCar also supports other protocols, including HTTPS, FTP, and Gopher.

   • After the protocol prefix comes the internet address (or host name) of a server. www.freeverse.com is the name of our web server. It ends in dot-com because Freeverse, Inc. is a commercial entity. The freeverse part is what identifies it as part of our domain, and the www part identifies which of our computers the URL points to (the World Wide Web server).

   • The part of a URL following the host name tells the web

server what content you're interested in.

In this example, a trailing **/** (which doesn't even need to be there) specifies the main page of our web site. Something else, such as /products/BumperCar/, would specify a certain page of our web site.

4.3 Downloads Panel

In BumperCar, to download a file means to fetch it from the network and save it to your Mac so that you can work with it in the Finder or another application. The Downloads panel allows you to track the progress of such operations.

To show the Downloads panel, choose Downloads from the Window menu or press Shift-⌘-D.

The panel contains a list of recent files BumperCar has downloaded. Each entry also shows information about the download's progress or the resulting local file. BumperCar will remember all the files you download. Only adults can clear this list, so you'll have a full record of everything your child downloads.

While a download is in progress, there will be a Stop button visible to the right of the progress information. Click this button to cancel the download. After a download completes, the button switches to an arrow; click the arrow to reveal the downloaded file in the Finder.

4.4 About Bookmarks

Bookmark files are like address books for the Internet; they allow you to store, organize, describe and access URLs. Over time, friends, colleagues and associates may send you interesting URLs

to explore, and you will collect a list of your own favorite sites.

To show your personal bookmarks:

> • Choose Show Bookmarks Editor from the Book-
> marks menu or press ⌘-B.

There are several categories into which bookmarks can be placed. Click the disclosure triangles to display the lists of bookmarks in each category. New bookmarks are automatically placed in the Favorites category.

4.4.1 Viewing Bookmarks

There are several ways to view the web sites listed in your book-marks:

> • Double-click the bookmark in the Bookmark Editor
>   window.
> • Select the bookmark from the Bookmarks menu.

4.4.2 Adding Bookmarks

To bookmark the page you're viewing in a browser window, choose Add Bookmark from the Bookmarks menu

To add a bookmark folder while in the bookmarks window, click the "+" button. New bookmarks are created in the selected cat-egory, or the Favorites category if none is selected. You can then use the Title and Address fields in the lower region of the window to enter the name of the bookmark and the URL of the Web site.
4.4.3 Editing Bookmarks

To edit a bookmark, open the Bookmark Editor window and se-lect the bookmark you wish to edit. You can then change the name or address of the bookmark in the Title and Address fields.

4.4.4 Organizing Bookmarks

You can rearrange your bookmark list by simply dragging bookmarks around in it. As you drag, a placeholder will appear noting where the URL you're dragging will end up if you release the mouse button. Bookmarks can also be dragged to and from the list of links in the Homepage section of the Safety Settings window.

5. Frequently Asked Questions

How do I block http://www.site.com/porn but not http://www.site.com/kids?
Add http://www.site.com/kids to your whitelist. This will allow that particular directory (and all sub-directories) to be visited, but not any other directory on that particular server.

Why doesn't distance off whitelist work for search results?
Because search engines are built around the ideal of linking to every site on the net, they cannot be considered trustworthy enough to only link to sites that would remain appropriate within the limits of off-whitelist browsing.

Why is there a "Content Filtering Suspended" box on the upper right of my screen?
This indicates that your Security Settings window is open. When the Security Settings window is open, all content restrictions are lifted.

Who made BumperCar!?!
The fine people at Apple provided the necessary browser technology. Mark Levin wrote the BumperCar application. Brad Cook, Bruce Morrison, and Dan Dickinson wrote this manual, it was edited by Joanna Smith. Steven Tze is totally responsible for all the great art!

Where can I find more help and get support?
Please visit us at **http://www.freeverse.com/**support for more helpful resources as well as our support form for contacting us directly!

Is BumperCar a Universal Binary application?
Absolutely! BumperCar has been built to run as well as possible on both PowerPC and Intel-based Macintosh computers.