

Appearance Plugins for Maclago 3.5

Overview

From version 3.5 upwards, Maclago supports customization of the board and pieces. This is accomplished through the use of plugins that reside inside the Maclago application.

Installation

To install a plugin go to the Finder, select the Maclago application icon and choose "Get Info" from the "File" menu; an Info window will appear. Then go to the "Plug-ins" pane of that window and click the button "Add..." to add the desired Plugin.

Anatomy of a Plugin

A Maclago appearance plugin consists of a Mac OS X package with the extension ".mext". Packages are folders that appear and behave as a single file under the Mac OS X finder. To see the contents of a package just go to the finder and control-click with the mouse on one, if the file is really a package an option "Show Package Contents" will appear on the contextual menu.

The structure of a Maclago appearance plugin is the following:

```
pluginName.mext
  white.png
  black.png
  board.png
  mark.png
  plugin-info.plist
```

`pluginName` is the name of the plugin that will appear in the "Appearance" popup menu, inside Maclago's preferences sheet.

`white.png` and `black.png` are the pieces used in the game, they must be in the PNG file format and may include transparency. The suggested minimum size is 48x48 pixels.

`board.png` is the 12x12 cells board used as a background for the pieces, it must also be in the PNG format and may include transparency. The recommended size is 576 pixels or bigger.

Although the currently Maclago supports a board size only 8x8 cells, future versions of the game will support 2 extra board sizes: 10x10 and 12x12. When the board size is lower than 12x12 the lower and rightmost cells of the board will be hidden.

plugin-info.plist is a XML file containing the following information:

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<!DOCTYPE plist PUBLIC "-//Apple Computer//DTD PLIST 1.0//EN"
"http://www.apple.com/DTDs/PropertyList-1.0.dtd">
<plist version="1.0">
<dict>
    <key>PluginType</key>
    <string>MacIago Appearance</string>
    <key>PluginVersion</key>
    <string>1.0</string>
    <key>AuthorName</key>
    <string>Miguel Marcos</string>
    <key>AuthorUrl</key>
    <string>http://www.rodesia.org/maciago</string>
    <key>AuthorRelease</key>
    <string>1</string>
</dict>
</plist>
```

PluginType: should be set to Maclago Appearance

PluginVersion: should be set to 1.0

AuthorName: your name

AuthorUrl: URL of the website where you keep the plugin

AuthorRelease: the release number of your plugin. The first release should be 1 and, whenever the plugin is modified, the release number should increase.

Final Thoughts

Image files are optional, if an image is not found inside the plugin package the default image is used. The plugin-info.plist file and its contents is required.

The best way to create a new plugin is to duplicate an existent plugin, rename it, replace/remove the image files and change the AuthorName, AuthorUrl and AuthorRelease inside the plugin-info.plist file.

If you create a plugin please send me a link to it, so it can be listed on Maclago's homepage.

To get the latest version of Maclago visit the site:
<http://www.rodedia.org/maciago>

For any coments/feature requests/etc send an email to:
sw@rodedia.org