



# Black Ink

## User Guide

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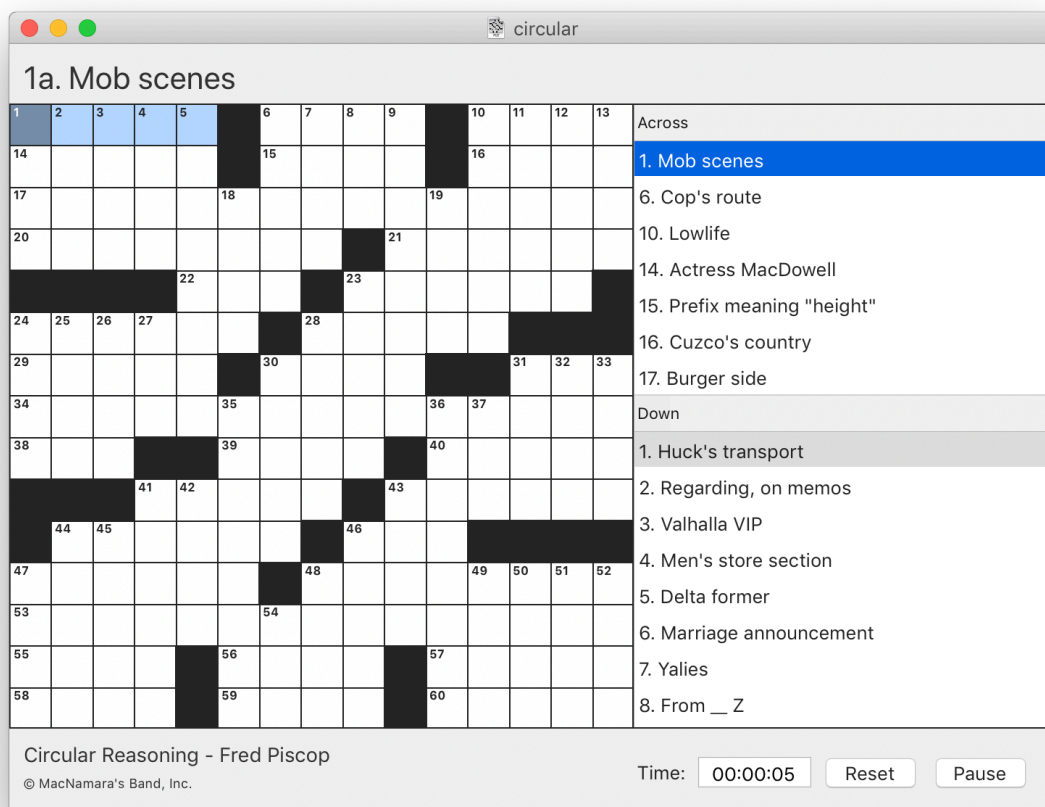
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# 1. Getting Started with Black Ink

Welcome to Black Ink! In this chapter you will learn about the main features of the app, and how to download crossword puzzles from the web.

## The Puzzle Window

Black Ink displays each puzzle in its own window, allowing you to work on more than one crossword at a time. Each window has the standard title bar, including controls to close, minimize, and switch to full-screen mode. Type the answers to the puzzle's clues right into the grid. The Navigation section of this document describes the various ways you can move about the puzzle as you solve. The current clue is displayed above the puzzle grid, and highlighted in the clue list at the right side of the window.



## Opening Puzzles

Black Ink works with puzzle files in the Across Lite format. Search for puzzles on the web in this format, download them, and open them with the app. Black Ink also makes it easy to download the latest puzzle from some well-known puzzle sources. By default Black Ink displays a web puzzle browser dialog when it is first launched. Simply click on a puzzle source and you'll be solving in moments!

At any time you may choose another web puzzle to solve by selecting "Open Web Puzzle" from the "File" menu. Both the launch-time browser and the Open menu contain all of the puzzle sources configured in Black Ink's Preferences dialog. If you find another source on the web with a predictable download URL format, you can use Preferences to add it to the list. You can also reorder the list to put your favorite puzzle at the top!

If you have existing puzzle files on your computer, simply choose the "Open" item from the "File" menu to choose the puzzle file. Black Ink even provides an "Open as Unsolved" menu item in the "File" menu, useful for replaying old puzzles.

## Navigation

Black Ink provides a number of ways to navigate within the puzzle. Many of the navigation mechanisms are directly affected by user preferences. (See the Preferences section of the Configuration chapter for more information.) When a puzzle is opened, the first word is selected, usually 1 across. The selected word is always highlighted with the highlight color from your Mac's System Preferences. The focused square is identified by a darker shade of the highlight color. The grid itself is composed of white and black squares. White squares are active and can contain user typed characters. Black squares are inactive and cannot be modified.

### Mouse Navigation

Use the mouse to quickly move to any portion of the puzzle. A single click anywhere within the puzzle grid will move focus to that square. Clicking the already-focused square changes the orientation of the selected word, if possible. For example if the square at 1 across is also part of a 1 down word, focus would shift from across to down.

Whenever focus changes, the selected clue is updated to match the focused square and orientation. You can also change the focused square and selected word by selecting a clue from either the across or down list in the clue list drawer. The default preferences specify that focus will jump to the first empty square in a word when you select a word from the clue list.

### Keyboard Navigation

The main mechanism for interacting with the crossword puzzle grid is the keyboard. The default action when you type a letter is to fill the focused square with that letter and to move focus to the next empty square in the word. This movement can be disabled or modified in Preferences.

Use the arrow keys to change focus without entering an answer. When navigating with arrow keys, the selected orientation and word can be changed by altering the direction of movement from horizontal to vertical or vice versa. For example, if the focused square is part of both an across and down answer, pressing the down arrow key will change the orientation from across to down. By default, the focused square does not change, but this behavior is also controlled by a preference.

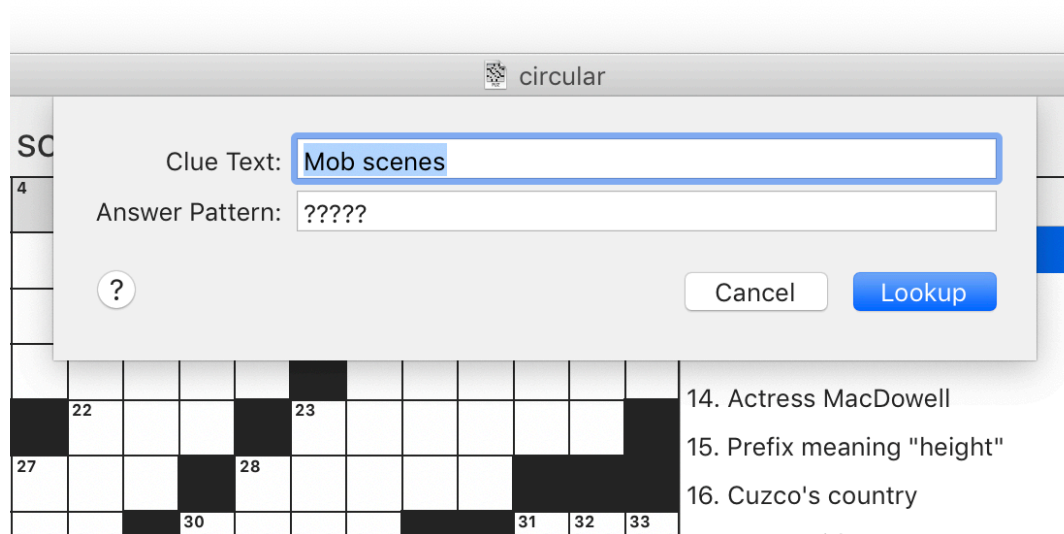
Use the tab key or return key to quickly move to the next word for the current orientation. Use shift-tab to move to the previous word for the current orientation.

### Direct Word Navigation

To navigate immediately to a specific numbered square, simply type the number. For example, to move from 1 across to 85 down you would simply enter 85 and press Return. As you type, the numbers will appear in a visual display above the puzzle grid. Press the Escape key to cancel a partially entered number.

### OneAcross.com Lookup

Black Ink makes it easy to search the OneAcross (<http://www.oneacross.com/>) online clue database. The OneAcross system connects clue text to crossword solutions. The service is free, with a suggested donation of \$20 per year. The “Answer Pattern” specifies the number of letters in the word, and any letters that may be in the word positionally. For example, if there was a 4 letter word and the middle two letters were “NC”, the pattern would be “?NC?”. Black Ink will fill in the clue text, build the pattern based on the existing puzzle board contents, and display this in a window. The pattern and clue text can be changed before sending a query. When the query is sent, it will open your default browser and display the result page. Your browser is used to comply with the OneAcross usage guidelines. If you use this functionality regularly, please make a donation to OneAcross through their web site.



## Puzzle Timer

Black Ink includes an optional timer for tracking how long it takes you to solve a puzzle. By default the timer runs from the moment you open a puzzle until the moment you enter or reveal the final correct answer. The timer is paused automatically when you switch from Black Ink to another app, or when you switch between open puzzles in Black Ink.

## Menus

The menus in Black Ink are a combination of standard application menus and Black Ink-specific menus. Items of interest are described in detailed below.

### Black Ink menu

The Black Ink menu is used to access functionality that affects the application as a whole. Standard Mac menu items such as Services, Hide, and Quit are not described here.

Menu Item	Purpose
About Black Ink	Displays credits and information about Black Ink.
Registration...	Displays information about your purchase of a Black Ink license.
Check for Updates	In versions of Black Ink that were not purchased from the Mac App Store, this option checks for an updated version of the app from Red Sweater's web site.
Preferences...	Displays the Preferences window for Black Ink. See the Preferences section of the Configuration chapter for detailed information.

### File menu

The File menu is used for opening, saving, and printing puzzles.

Menu Item	Purpose
Open Web Puzzle	A submenu appears with a list of your configured and enabled web puzzle sources. Select a source to download the latest puzzle and begin working on it.
Show Web Puzzle Chooser	Displays a window with the same puzzle sources as in the submenu above. This window is optionally displayed by default when Black Ink opens.

Menu Item	Purpose
Open Puzzle File...	Opens a crossword puzzle file. The file must be an Across Lite format file.
Open Recent	Opens a recently opened crossword puzzle file as selected from its sub menu. The list of recent items can be reset by selecting "Clear Menu."
Close	Closes the active puzzle window.
Save	Saves the active puzzle window with its existing name.
Duplicate	Saves a copy of the active puzzle window with a new name.
Revert To	Presents a submenu with options for reverting to an earlier version of a puzzle.
Page Setup...	Provides the ability to modify standard page layout settings for the currently active crossword puzzle in preparation for printing. Page Setup also contains Black Ink-specific printing options. See the "Print Options" section in the Configuration chapter for more information.
Print...	Prints the active puzzle window, allowing standard printer settings to be modified.

### Edit menu

The Edit menu is used to perform a variety of text manipulation actions on the board of the active puzzle window.

Menu Item	Purpose
Start Over...	Opens a crossword puzzle file, clearing any previous answers before displaying it. Useful for resolving a previously completed puzzle.
Enter Special Answer	When puzzles require special answers such as multi-letter answers or special characters, this menu item facilitates the entry of such answers.



Menu Item	Purpose
Undo	Changes the puzzle back to the state just prior to the last action. The name of this menu item will be appended with text to identify what the action was.
Redo	Negates the effect of a previous Undo action.
Cut Word	Cuts the active word, causing the squares to be emptied and the cut text to be added to the system pasteboard.
Copy Word	Copies the text of the active word into the system pasteboard.
Paste Word	Pastes available text from the system pasteboard into the active word. If the available text is longer than the active word, it will be trimmed before insertion into the board. This action will replace any existing text in the active word.
Clear Word	Clears the active word, causing the squares to be emptied.

### View menu

The View menu is used to adjust the appearance of the active puzzle window.

Menu Item	Purpose
Make Puzzle Bigger	Increases the size of the puzzle window. The window cannot be made larger than the Mac's screen can fit.
Make Puzzle Smaller	Decreases the size of the puzzle window.
Show/Hide Clue Lists	Toggles the display of the drawer containing the puzzle clue lists for Across and Down. The menu name will be modified to reflect the effect of selecting it.

Menu Item	Purpose
Show Puzzle Notes...	Displays a popup window containing the text of the puzzle notes. The popup window can be clicked and dragged away from the puzzle window to keep it visible while you solve. This menu item will be disabled if there are no notes for the active puzzle.
Show/Hide Puzzle Timer	Shows or hides the puzzle timer section of the active puzzle window.
Enter Full Screen	Moves the active puzzle window into full-screen mode.

## Solution Menu

The Solution menu contains actions that are related to the puzzle solution, some of which are only available if the puzzle is unscrambled.

Menu Item	Purpose
Check Current Letter	Compares the letter at the focused square to the correct answer, if known. The square will be marked as checked, according to the Square State appearance preferences.
Check Current Word	Performs “Check Current Letter” on each square in the focused word.
Check Entire Puzzle	Performs “Check Current Letter” on each square in the entire puzzle.
Reveal Current Letter	Reveals the correct answer for the focused square, and marks the character as having been revealed. The square will be marked as revealed, according to the Square State appearance preferences. Once a square has been revealed it cannot be changed.
Reveal Current Word	Performs “Reveal Current Letter” on each square in the focused word.
Reveal Incorrect Letters	Performs “Reveal Current Letter” on each square in the puzzle which currently has an incorrect answer.
Reveal Entire Puzzle	Performs “Reveal Current Letter” on each square in the entire puzzle.
OneAcross.com Lookup...	Displays the OneAcross Lookup prompt, pre-populated with the clue and answer text for the selected word. See the OneAcross Lookup section above for more information.

## Window Menu

The Window menu is used to navigate among Black Ink's various windows.

Menu Item	Purpose
Web Puzzle Chooser	Displays the menu of web puzzle sources available, in an easily clickable window.
Minimize	Shrinks the puzzle window and places it in the Dock.
Zoom	Toggles the window size between the largest reasonable size for the current screen, and the size you last set the window to.
Bring All to Front	Brings all Black Ink windows to the foreground, in front of windows from other applications on your Mac.

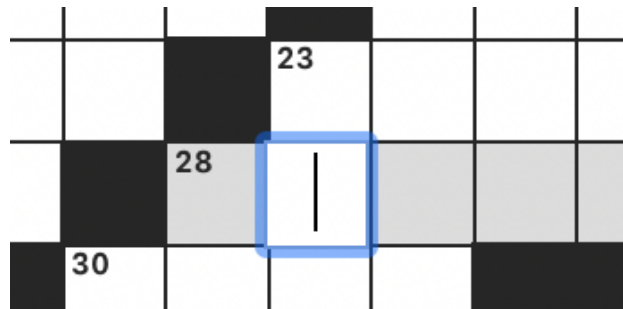
## Help Menu

The Help menu provides quick access to user documentation and support.

Menu Item	Purpose
Black Ink User Guide	Displays this user guide.
Contact Support	Opens the Red Sweater support page, which includes options for browsing online help or contacting us for support.
Acknowledgements	Displays a window showing acknowledgements for third-party source code that is used with permission in Black Ink.

## Special Answer Entry

Some crossword puzzles are created with themes that require multiple letters or special characters in a single square. Typing a letter in a square normally advances the input location to the next square in the word, so to enter special answers Black Ink features a separate input mechanism. To enter a special answer, you may either control-click the square you wish to enter into, or select “Enter Special Answer” from the Edit menu. An enlarged input area will appear, allowing the entry of however many letters are needed:



To end editing press the return key. Note that it is possible to press return with an empty input area if entering multiple letters was not intended or to delete previously entered letters. For puzzles that contain multiple letter square answers the check and reveal functionality will take that information into account.

## 2. Configuration

This chapter details the configuration of Black Ink.

Black Ink has many configuration options, allowing a fine-tuned solving experience.

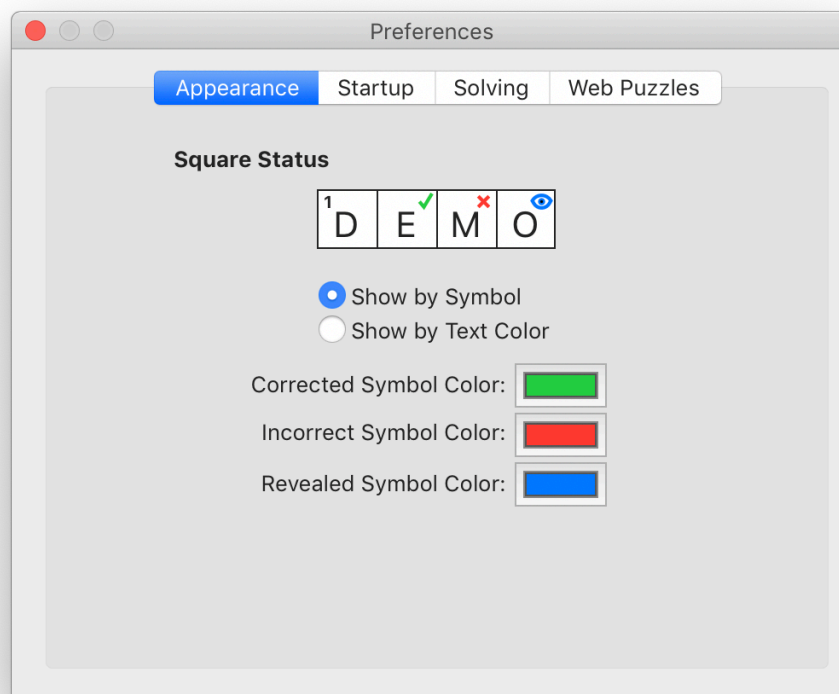
### Preferences

Use Black Ink Preferences window to customize some of the display and behavioral characteristics of the app. Preferences are broken into four categories: Appearance, Startup, Solving, and Web Puzzles. Select Preferences from the Black Ink menu to open the window.

#### Appearance Preferences

Appearance preferences are concerned with visual aspects of Black Ink.

The Square Status section of the Appearance pane controls the visual feedback Black Ink uses to convey information about the way a square was solved. As you solve, check, or reveal puzzle squares, information about the correctness of the square can be displayed either by a small symbol, or by a custom coloring of the answer text. The preview “DEMO” squares give immediate feedback about how the settings will look while solving a puzzle.



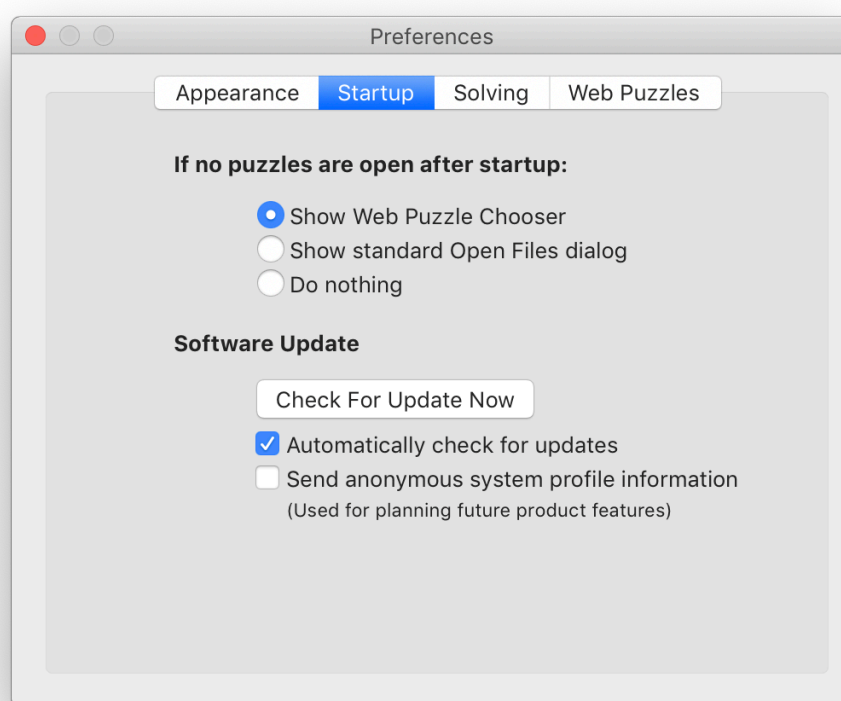
A “Corrected” square is one whose value has been confirmed as the correct answer, after having been previously marked “Incorrect” by one of the “Check” menu items in the “Solution” menu.

An “Incorrect” square is one whose value has been found to be different from the correct answer, after being checked with one of the “Check” menu items in the “Solution” menu.

A “Revealed” square is one whose correct value has been supplied by Black Ink, using one of the “Reveal” menu items in the “Solution” menu.

## Startup Preferences

Startup preferences deal with the behavior of Black Ink upon launching. Use these settings to adjust the behavior according to your puzzle solving & downloading style.

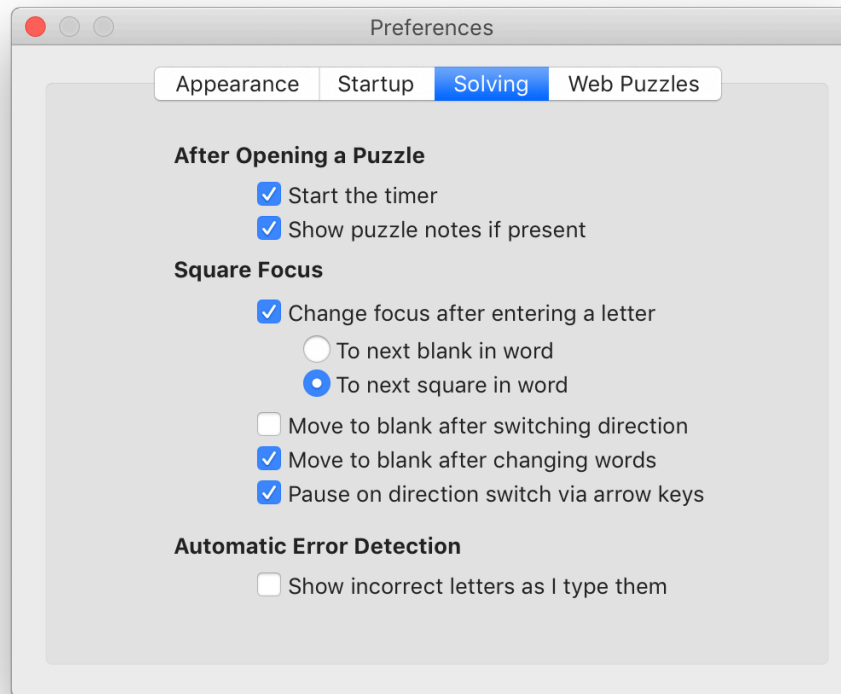


By default Black Ink will re-open any puzzles that were open when the app was last closed. If no puzzles were left open, the app can automatically prompt you to open a new puzzle from the web, or a puzzle file that you have saved to your computer.

For versions of the app that were not purchased from the Mac App Store, the “Software Update” option can be used to check for an updated version of the app, or to configure automatic, periodic checks.

## Solving Preferences

Solving preferences include options for the puzzle timer, automatic error correction, and for adjusting the mechanics of square focus while solving a puzzle.



Select the “Start the timer” option if you want Black Ink to show and start the puzzle timer immediately upon opening a puzzle document. See the Puzzle Timer section for more information about this feature.

Select the “Show puzzle notes if present” option to automatically display puzzle notes that are associated with a puzzle. These are sometimes used to provide hints about the theme of a puzzle or to give credit to people who were involved in constructing the puzzle.

Options in the Square Focus section are used to control how the focused square changes when various actions occur. The “Change focus after entering a letter” checkbox enables or disables the selection of a movement mechanism. If this checkbox is unchecked, the focused square will not change when a letter is typed on the keyboard; you will move the focused square manually with the mouse or with arrow keys. If the checkbox is checked, one of two mechanisms will be used to determine how the focused square changes. The “To next blank in word” option causes focus to move to the next blank square in the word, or simply to the next square if there are no more



blank squares. If “To next square in word” is selected, focus will always move to the next square in the word, regardless of its content.

“Move to blank after switching direction” causes focus to move to the first blank square in a word when the orientation is toggled via a mouse action.

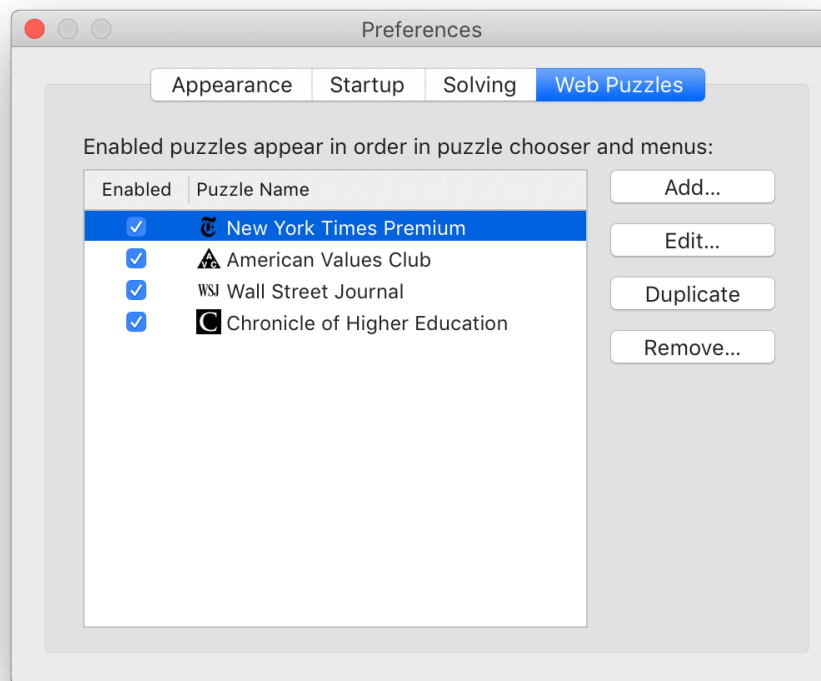
“Move to blank after changing words” causes focus to move to the first blank square in a word after you move to a new word using tab, shift-tab, return, or by clicking a clue in the clue list.

“Pause on direction switch via arrow keys” defines the behavior when you change orientation by pressing an arrow key. As outlined in the Keyboard Navigation section, the selection orientation and selected word can be changed by changing the direction of movement from horizontal to vertical or vice versa. When this preference is checked, the orientation will toggle, but the focused square will not change (unless it is necessary in order to facilitate an orientation switch). When it is unchecked, the orientation changes, and focus moves to the next square in the word.

“Show incorrect letters as I type them” allows you to be alerted immediately when you make a mistake while solving a puzzle. Most puzzles include answers, but this preference is not applicable to puzzles where no answers are embedded in the puzzle file.

## Web Puzzles

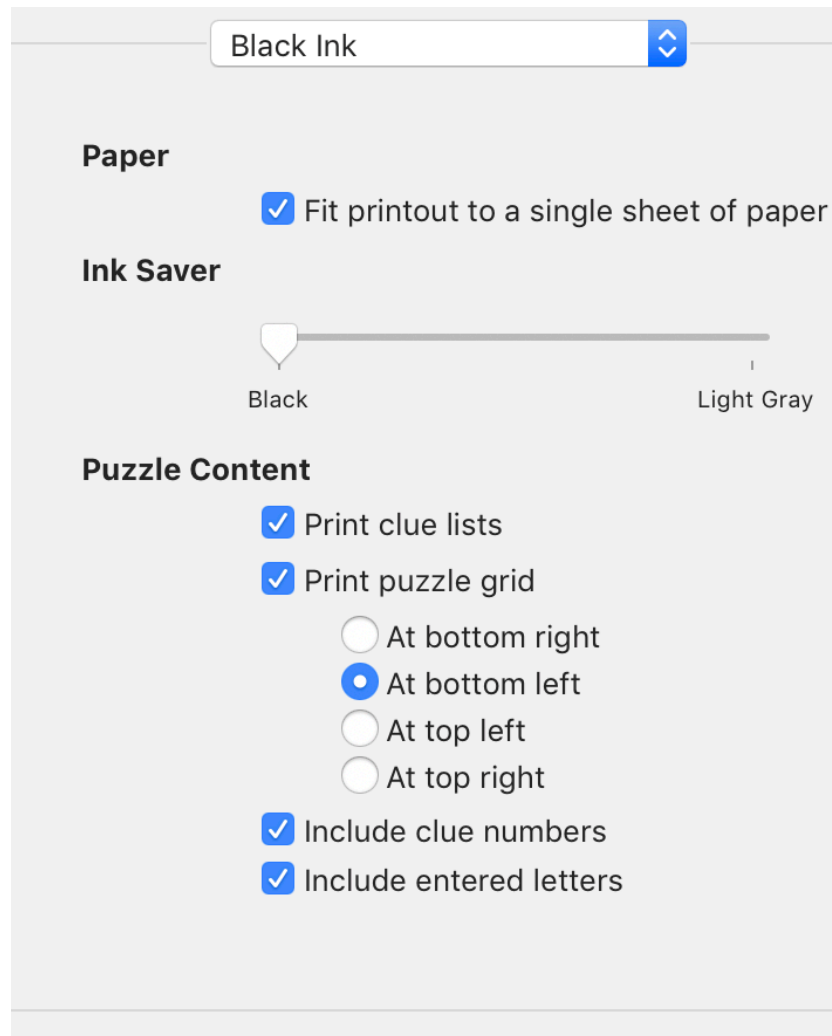
Use the Web Puzzles pane to manage the list of puzzles that Black Ink knows how to download on your behalf.



Puzzles that are checked as “Enabled” appear in both the Web Puzzle Chooser and in the Open Web Puzzle menu.

## Print Options

Black Ink supports a variety of printing-related options. These options are accessible from within the Print panel, which appears when you select “Print” from the “File” menu. Click the “Show Details” button if Black Ink’s custom options are not already visible.



The screenshot shows the 'Black Ink' print options panel. At the top is a title bar with the text 'Black Ink' and a blue double-headed arrow icon. Below the title bar are three sections: 'Paper', 'Ink Saver', and 'Puzzle Content'. The 'Paper' section has a single checked checkbox labeled 'Fit printout to a single sheet of paper'. The 'Ink Saver' section features a horizontal slider with a white triangle handle positioned near the 'Black' end, and labels 'Black' and 'Light Gray' at the ends. The 'Puzzle Content' section contains several options: 'Print clue lists' (checked), 'Print puzzle grid' (checked), four radio button options for grid placement ('At bottom right', 'At bottom left' is selected, 'At top left', 'At top right'), 'Include clue numbers' (checked), and 'Include entered letters' (checked).

Black Ink

**Paper**

- ☒ Fit printout to a single sheet of paper

**Ink Saver**

Black Light Gray

**Puzzle Content**

- ☒ Print clue lists
- ☒ Print puzzle grid
  - ☐ At bottom right
  - ☒ At bottom left
  - ☐ At top left
  - ☐ At top right
- ☒ Include clue numbers
- ☒ Include entered letters

The “Fit printout to a single sheet of paper” option ensures that no matter how large the puzzle, or how many clues it has, it will only use one sheet of paper to print.

Ink Saver allows you to specify a gray value between Black and Light Gray in which the crossword grid should be printed. The closer the slider is positioned to Light Gray, the lighter the printed grid will be. Printing with a lighter color should reduce the amount of ink required to print the grid on paper.

Puzzle Content options allows you to control precisely what will be included in the printed puzzle, and how it will be laid out on the page.

## **3.** Spotlight Integration

This chapter explains Black Ink's integration with Spotlight.

Black Ink provides indexing for puzzle files so Spotlight can be used to find them.

macOS includes a system-wide search functionality named Spotlight. Spotlight frees you from remembering where files are stored by means of a powerful indexing engine. When installed Tiger provides support for many common file formats.

Third party applications like Black Ink that utilize special file formats like Across Lite must provide assistance to Spotlight in order to properly index files. Support for Spotlight is bundled with Black Ink and you need only run Black Ink once for indexing of crossword puzzles to occur. After the initial run any new puzzles will be indexed automatically as long as Black Ink is still installed on the computer.

### Search Examples

Black Ink provides Spotlight with puzzle title, author, and copyright information. In addition all puzzles are identified as being in AcrossLite format. It is possible to perform searches using any or all of these items.

#### **Finding All Puzzles**

To locate all the crossword puzzles on your computer you can simply enter "AcrossLite" (without quotes) into the Spotlight search field.

#### **Finding Puzzles By Author**

To locate all the crossword puzzles by a particular author you can simply enter the author's name into the Spotlight search field.

#### **More Information**

For more information about Spotlight visit Apple's website at <http://www.apple.com/macosx/features/spotlight/>

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