Chapter 5 NCSA Layout Menus

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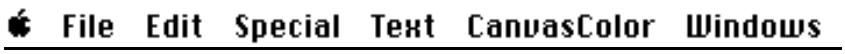
Chapter Overview

This chapter reviews each of the menus and commands that appear in NCSA Layout's menu bar. A brief description of the command is accompanied by a reference to the chapter and section that discusses it in detail.

About the Layout Menus

The NCSA Layout commands appear in seven menus: Apple, File, Edit, Special, Text, CanvasColor, and Windows, as shown in Figure 5.1.

Figure 5.1 Layout Menu Bar



The commands in these menus are dimmed when not applicable; NCSA Layout will not carry out a dimmed command.

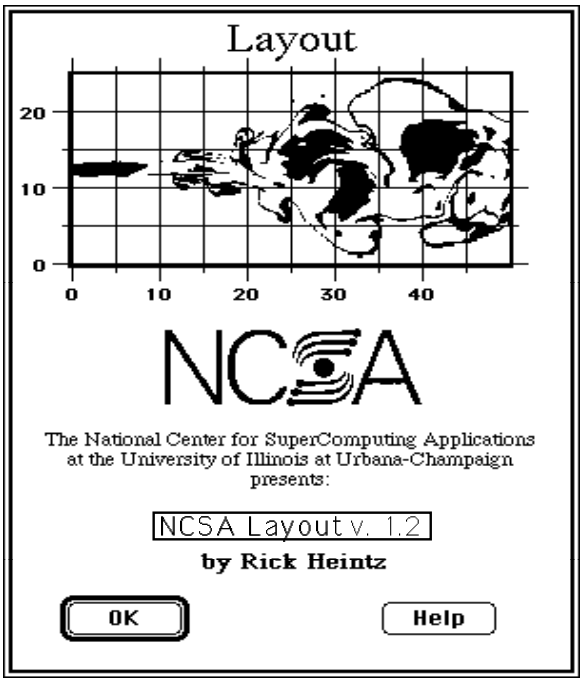
The NCSA Layout menus function as any other Macintosh menu. If you do not know how to issue commands using menus, refer to your Macintosh user's guide.

The Apple Menu

The Apple menu appears in all Macintosh applications. It permits access to your Macintosh desk accessories, such as the Chooser, Calculator, and

Control Panel. In addition, the Apple menu contains the command About NCSA Layout. When you choose About NCSA Layout from the Apple menu, a box appears displaying the NCSA Layout logo, shown in Figure 5.2. To remove the About Box and return to the Layout application, click OK or press RETURN. To access NCSA Layout's online help facility, click Help. If you need more information regarding desk accessories, refer to your Macintosh user's guide.

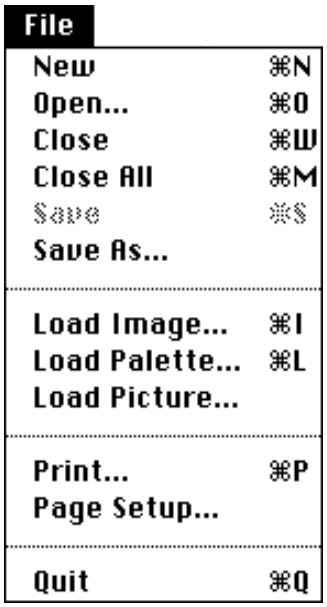
Figure 5.2 About Box



The File Menu

The File menu, shown in Figure 5.3, contains the commands New, Open, Close, Close All, Save, Save As, Load Image, Load Palette, Load Picture, Print, Page Setup, and Quit.

Figure 5.3 File Menu



New

Creates a new, blank, untitled display window and Layout file. (See "Beginning a Layout Session" in Chapter 1.)

Open...

Reads a Layout file from disk and displays it in a display window. (See "Beginning a Layout Session" in Chapter 1.)

Close

Closes the active display window just as clicking in the close box does. (See "Exiting a Display" in Chapter 4.)

Save

Saves the layout in HDF or PICT format. (See "File Formats" in Chapter 3 and "Saving Your Work" in Chapter 4.)

Save As...

Prompts you to name the layout and saves it in an HDF file, HDF Layout (default) or HDF Image; PICT file, PICT (Drawing) or PICT (Pixels): or in a Batch Mask. (See "Saving Your Work" in Chapter 4.)

Load Image...

Reads 8-bit or ASCII data (file(s) or animation) from a raw raster, HDF, or non-HDF ASCII file and displays it in a display window. (See "File Formats" in Chapter 3 and "Loading Images" in Chapter 4.)

Load Palette...

Reads a palette from a raw palette, raw raster, or HDF file and initializes the hardware color table according to this palette. (See “Working with Palettes” in Chapter 4.)

Load Picture...

Loads a picture from a PICT file and displays it as a picture object. (See “Loading Images” and “Manipulating Images” in Chapter 4.

Print

Lets you choose the printing specifications for your image, including an option to print either color/grayscale or black and white images. (See “Printing You Image” in Chapter 4.)

Page Setup

Allows you to choose the page setup of your printed image by selecting various options such as paper size, image orientation, font substitution, etc. (See “Printing You Image” in Chapter 4.)

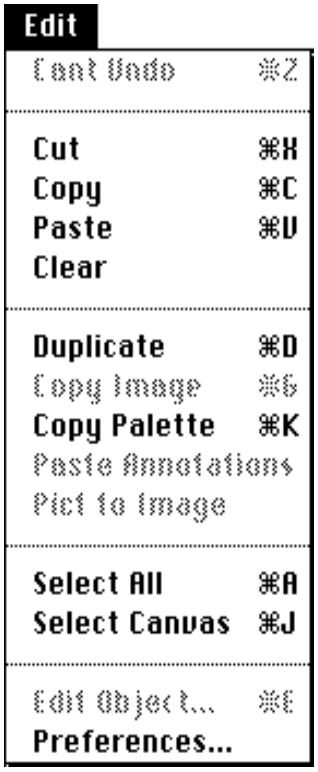
Quit

Exits Layout. (See “Exiting the Program” in Chapter 1.)

The Edit Menu

The Edit menu, shown in Figure 5.4, contains the following options: Can’t Undo, Cut, Copy, Paste, Clear, Duplicate, Copy Image, Copy Palette, Paste Annotations, Pict to Image, Select All, Select Canvas, Edit Object, and Preferences.

Figure 5.4 Edit Menu



Can't Undo
Dimmed. Not supported in this version.

Cut
Removes selected objects or text from the display and places them on the Clipboard. (See "Editing Text" and "Manipulating Objects" in Chapter 4.)

Copy
Copies selected objects or regions from the display and places them on the Clipboard. (See "Editing Text" and "Manipulating Objects" in Chapter 4.)

Paste
Pastes the contents of the Clipboard into the NCSA Layout display window. (See "Editing Text" and "Manipulating Objects" in Chapter 4.)

Clear
Functions like DELETE; that is, it removes selected objects from the display, but does not place them on the Clipboard, just as pressing DELETE does. (See "Editing Text" and "Manipulating Objects" in Chapter 4.)

Duplicate
Copies and pastes selected objects into the display window. (See “Manipulating Objects” in Chapter 4.)

Copy Image
Copies the image minus its annotations and places it on the Clipboard. (See “Manipulating Objects” in Chapter 4.)

Copy Palette
Copies the current palette and places it on the Clipboard. (See “Working with Palettes” in Chapter 4.)

Paste Annotations
Pastes only the annotations associated with the image on the Clipboard onto a selected image. (See “Annotating an Image” in Chapter 4.)

Pict to Image
Changes a selected picture object into an image which can be annotated and edited in NCSA Layout. (See “Manipulating Objects” in Chapter 4.)

Select All
Selects all of the objects currently in the display window. (See “Saving Your Work” in Chapter 4.)

Select Canvas
Selects the entire canvas and its windows as an image. (See “Saving Your Work” in Chapter 4.)

Edit Object...
Brings up the text box for selected text, the Edit Options dialog box for a selected image, and the Color Bar dialog box for a selected color bar. (See “Annotating an Image” and “Editing Text” in Chapter 4.)

Preferences...
Brings up a dialog box in which you may specify how you wish the Layout program to conduct certain operations. (See “Loading an ASCII File,” “Switching Images,” and “Layering Objects on the Screen” in Chapter 4.)

The Special Menu

The Special menu, shown in Figure 5.5, contains the following options: Hide Menu Bar, New Color Bar, Palettes, Bring To Front, Send To Back, Align Horizontal, Align Vertical, and Help.

Figure 5.5 Special Menu

Hide Menu Bar

Removes the menu bar and enlarges the display to cover the full screen for photographing. (See “Photographing Your Display” in Chapter 4.)

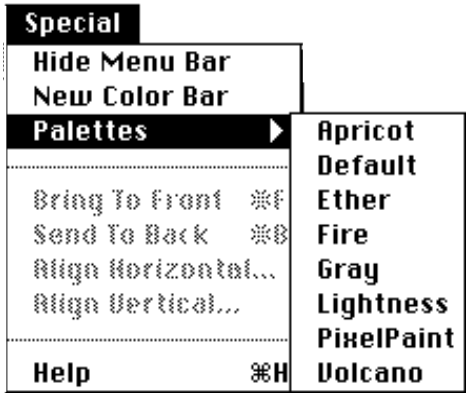
New Color Bar

Places a color bar object that reflects the range of the current palette into the display window. (See “Annotating an Image” in Chapter 4.)

Palettes

Contains a submenu (Figure 5.6) from which you may select a palette built into the NCSA Layout program. (See “Working with Palettes” in Chapter 4.)

Figure 5.6 Palettes Submenu



Bring To Front

Brings the selected object or objects to the foreground of the display. (See “Annotating an Image” in Chapter 4.)

Send To Back

Puts the selected object or objects in the background of the display. (See "Annotating an Image" in Chapter 4.)

Align Horizontal...

Prompts you to specify whether the selected objects are to be aligned by their top edges, centers, or bottom edges; which object is to be anchored; whether to space the objects evenly and how much space to place between them; and aligns the objects according to your specifications. (See "Manipulating Objects" in Chapter 4.)

Align Vertical...

Prompts you to specify whether the selected objects are to be aligned by their left edges, centers, or right edges; which object is to be anchored; whether to space the objects evenly and how much space to place between them; and aligns the objects according to your specifications. (See "Manipulating Objects" in Chapter 4.)

Help

Calls up NCSA Layout's online help facility. (See "Using Online Help" in Chapter 1.)

The Text Menu

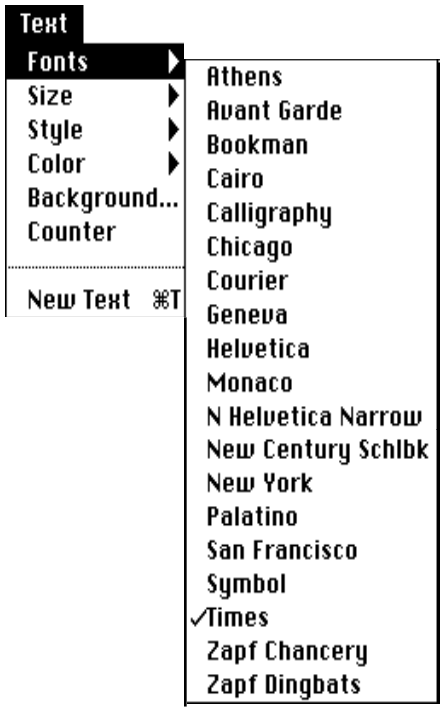
The Text menu, shown in Figure 5.7, contains the Fonts, Size, Style, and Color submenus, the Background option, and the New Text command.

Figure 5.7 Text Menu

Fonts

Contains a submenu (Figure 5.8) from which you may select one of the fonts currently installed on your system. (See "Editing Text" in Chapter 4.)

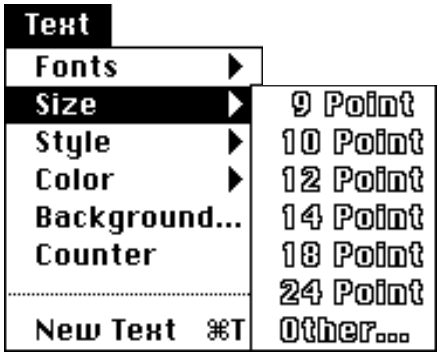
Figure 5.8 Fonts Submenu



Size

Contains a submenu (Figure 5.9) from which you may choose a point size for the current font. (See "Editing Text" in Chapter 4.)

Figure 5.9 Size Submenu



Style

Contains a submenu (Figure 5.10) from which you may select one or more styles for the current font, for example, Underline and Bold. (See "Editing Text" in Chapter 4.)

Figure 5.10 Style Submenu

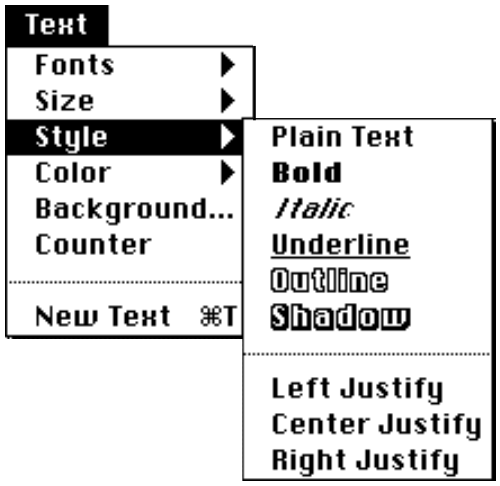


Figure 5.11 Black-and-White View of Color Submenu

Color

Contains a submenu (Figure 5.11) from which you may select a color from the current palette and applies the color you choose to selected text or the next text insertion. (See “Editing Text” in Chapter 4.)

Background...

Brings up Text Background Color dialog box. Allows you to choose a transparent background or a colored canvas background. (See “Coloring Text Background” in Chapter 4.)

Counter

Makes selected text into a counter for the frames in your file or animation. (See “Adding Counters” in Chapter 2.)

New Text

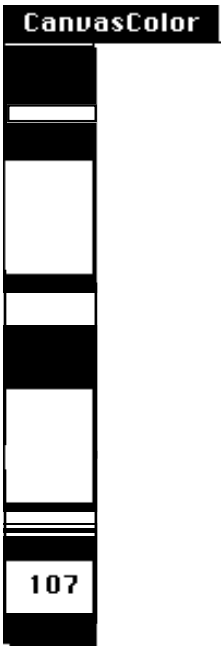
Brings up a new text box on the canvas or wherever you last clicked. (See “Inserting Text” in Chapter 1.)

The CanvasColor Menu

The CanvasColor Menu, shown in Figure 5.12, contains a color bar menu from which you may select a color from the current palette. It applies the color you select to the canvas. (See “Coloring the Canvas” and “Coloring

Text” in Chapter 4.)

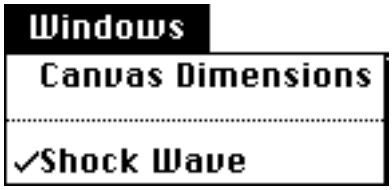
Figure 5.12 Black-and-White View of CanvasColor Menu



The Windows Menu

The Windows menu, shown in Figure 5.13, contains the Canvas Dimensions option and displays the name of the currently selected canvas.

Figure 5.13 Windows Menu



Canvas Dimensions

Displays and allows you to change the horizontal and vertical dimensions of the active display canvas. (See “Enlarging the Canvas to Full Screen” in Chapter 4.)

The Window menu lists the names of the displayed windows. You may switch between the displays if more than one is present. A checkmark appears beside the active window you select. (See “Enlarging the Canvas to Full Screen” in Chapter 4.)