

New Technical Notes

Macintosh

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Developer Support

OS 6 - Control Strip Modules Operating System

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We discuss Control Strip modules and how to write a new module. This information originally appeared in the *PowerBook 520, 520c, 540, 540c Developer Note*. It is being published as a Technical Note for ease of access. The information in the *PowerBook 520, 520c, 540, 540c Developer Note* is obsolete. All future updates to this documentation will happen within this Technical Note.

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Introduction

The Control Strip is a control panel that provides the operating environment for Control Strip modules. It runs on any Macintosh PowerBook computer with System 7.0 or later.

The Control Strip is implemented in a private layer that appears in front of the windows in all the application layers so that the windows will not obscure it. The user can move the window for the Control Strip to any location on the display as long as the right or left edge of the strip is anchored to the right or left edge of the display. Figure 1 shows a Control Strip fully opened, with some imaginary modules added.



Figure 1 Control Strip, opened

The Control Strip has a tab on its unanchored end. The user can drag the tab to adjust the length of the strip or hold down the Option key and drag the tab to move the strip to a new position. The user can reduce the Control Strip to just display the tab alone, by clicking the tab. Clicking the tab when the Control Strip is hidden makes the Control Strip visible again.

The different parts of the Control Strip either display status information or act as buttons. When the user clicks a button, it is highlighted; some buttons also display additional elements such as pop-up menus.

By holding down the Option key and clicking a display area, the user can drag the display area to another position in the Control Strip.

The Control Strip software provides a standard screen location for a collection of individual modules that provide status and control functions.

Adding Control Strip Modules

The Control Strip is implemented in software as a shell with individual control and status modules added. The Control Strip software draws the strip that acts as the background for the individual modules. Each module is responsible for drawing the icons and other objects that make up its user interface.

Contents of Module Files

The only required resource in a module file is a resource containing the code necessary for the module to interact with the Control Strip. A module file may contain more than one code resource if it is to provide support for more than one function. In that case, each module in the file is loaded and initialized separately and treated as an independent entity.

If a file contains only a single code resource, the resource may be unnamed, and the module will be referenced by its filename. If more than one module is contained within a module file, each module is required to have a unique name describing its functionality.

All other resources in a module file are optional, but there are several that are recommended in order to support a custom icon and version information. The recommended resources are

- 'BNDL'
- 'FREF'
- 'ICN#', 'icl4', 'icl8', 'ics#', 'ics4', 'ics8'
- signature resource (same type as file's creator)
- 'vers', ID=1

Developers should confine their resources to the range 256–32767.

Module Interface

The module's interface to the Control Strip consists of a code resource of type 'sdev'. This code is responsible for performing all of the functions required by the Control Strip (see below) as well as any functions that are custom to the module itself. The module's entry point is at the beginning of the resource and is defined as

```
pascal long ControlStripModule(long message,  
                                long params,  
                                Rect *statusRect,  
                                GrafPtr statusPort);
```

Interactions between a module and the Control Strip are managed by passing messages to the module to tell it what to do or to obtain information about the module and its capabilities. Each module is required to observe Pascal register saving conventions. A module may trash registers D0, D1, D2, A0, and A1, but must preserve all other registers across its call.

Field descriptions

message	A message number, from the list in the section “Control Strip Module Messages”, that tells the module what action to perform.
params	The result returned by the initialize call to the module. This would typically be the handle to the module’s private variables. It will be passed to the module on all subsequent calls. (Control Strip modules are code resources, so they need to use the techniques described in Tech Note PT 35 - Stand-Alone Code, <i>ad nauseam</i> in order to use global variables.)
statusRect	A pointer to a rectangle defining the area that a module may draw within.
statusPort	A pointer to the Control Strip’s graphics port. This will be either a color or black-and-white graphics port depending on which PowerBook Model the Control Strip is running on.

The result value returned by the module will vary depending on the message sent to it. Results for each message are described in the sections on the individual messages.

Module Reentrancy

Any module that makes calls to routines such as `GetNextEvent`, `ModalDialog` or `PopupMenuSelect` should assume that it could be called reentrantly; that is, the module could be called again while the initial call is still in progress. Situations to avoid are such things as reusing a single parameter block for multiple calls.

Instead of using a single parameter block, it’s better, if possible, to allocate the parameter block on the stack. In the case of asynchronous calls, using the stack could cause problems; in that case, preventing the block’s reuse should be sufficient.

If you need to lock and unlock your global variables, it’s better to use `HGetState` and `HLock` at the beginning of the call, and `HSetState` at the end, so that the state is restored to what it was on entry.

Control Strip Module Reference

Control strip modules interact with the Control Strip software in three ways: by accepting messages, by calling utility routines, and by calling Gestalt selectors. The next three sections describe each of those interactions.

Control Strip Module Messages

All Control Strip modules must respond to messages from the Control Strip. The following messages have been defined:

Message name	number	Description
<code>sdevInitModule</code>	0	Initialize the module
<code>sdevCloseModule</code>	1	Clean up before being closed
<code>sdevFeatures</code>	2	Return the feature bits
<code>sdevGetDisplayWidth</code>	3	Return the width of the module's display
<code>sdevPeriodicTickle</code>	4	Periodically called when nothing else is happening
<code>sdevDrawStatus</code>	5	Update the interface in the Control Strip
<code>sdevMouseClicked</code>	6	User has clicked on the module's display area
<code>sdevSaveSettings</code>	7	Save any changed settings in the module's preferences file
<code>sdevShowBalloonHelp</code>	8	Display a help balloon, if the module has one

sdevInitModule

The `sdevInitModule` message is the first message sent to a module after the module has been loaded from its file. Initialization allows the module to initialize its variables and to determine whether it can run on a particular machine: for example, if the module's function is to display battery information it can run only on a PowerBook.

The module needs to load and detach any resources in the module's resource file that will be used, because the resource file will not be kept permanently open. What that means is that your code can't use `GetResource()` or the like to retrieve the handle to one of the module's resources on a subsequent call. Typically you would allocate space in your global variables for handles to those detached resources.

The `sdevInitModule` message returns a result depending on its success at installing itself. A positive result (≥ 0) indicates successful installation. This result value will be passed to the module on all subsequent calls. A negative result indicates an error condition, and installation of the module is aborted by the Control Strip software. The module will not receive a close message when installation has been aborted.

sdevCloseModule

The `sdevCloseModule` message is sent to a module when it should be closed. Typically the module itself will decide when this ought to happen. When the module receives this message, it should dispose of all the detached resources it loaded as well as its global storage. No result is expected.

sdevFeatures

The `sdevFeatures` message queries the module for the features it supports. It returns as its result a long consisting of 1 bits for supported features and 0 bits for unsupported features. All undefined bits are reserved by Apple for future features, and must be set to 0. The bits are defined as

<code>sdevWantMouseClicks</code>	0	If this bit is set, the Control Strip will notify the module of mouse down events. If this bit is not set, the Control Strip assumes that the module only displays status information with no user interaction.
<code>sdevDontAutoTrack</code>	1	If this bit is set, the Control Strip highlights the module's display and then calls the module to perform mouse tracking; this bit is usually set when, for example, a

- module has a pop-up menu associated with it. If this bit is cleared, the Control Strip tracks the cursor until the mouse button is released, then sends an `sdevMouseClicked` message to the module to notify it that there was a mouse-down event.
- `sdevHasCustomHelp` 2 If this bit is set, the module is responsible for displaying its own help messages, which can be customized depending on its current state. If the bit is cleared, the Control Strip will display a generic help message when the cursor passes over the module's display area and Balloon Help is on.
- `sdevKeepModuleLocked` 3 If this bit is set, the module's code will be kept locked in the heap. This bit should be set only if the module is passing the address of one of its routines to the outside world (for example, installing itself in a queue).

sdevGetDisplayWidth

The `sdevGetDisplayWidth` message is sent to a module to determine how much horizontal space (in pixels) its display currently requires on the Control Strip. The module should return the number of pixels as its result. The returned width should not be the maximum width it requires for any configuration, but should reflect how much space it currently requires, because it's possible for a module to request that its display be resized.

Warning: You should be conservative in your use of Control Strip display space, which is limited. Because several modules could be requesting space, it's possible that your module could be shoved off the end.

sdevPeriodicTickle

The `sdevPeriodicTickle` message is passed to the module periodically to allow the module to update its display due to changes in its state. You should not assume any minimum or maximum interval between tickles. The module should return, as its result, a long that signals requests for actions from the Control Strip software. All undefined bits in the result are reserved for future use by Apple and must be set to 0. The bits are defined as

- `sdevResizeDisplay` 0 If this bit is set, the module needs to resize its display. The Control Strip will send a `sdevGetDisplayWidth` message to the module and followed by a `sdevDrawStatus` message so that the module can update its display.
- `sdevNeedToSave` 1 If this bit is set, the module needs to save changed settings to disk. The Control Strip software will mark the request but may defer the actual save operation to a better time (for example, when the hard disk is spinning).
- `sdevHelpStateChange` 2 If this bit is set, the module's state has changed so it needs to update its help message. If a help balloon is being displayed for this module, the Control Strip software will remove it and put up a new help balloon for the current state.

`sdevCloseNow` 3 If this bit is set, the module is requesting to be closed. The Control Strip software will call the module to save its settings, then call it again to close itself.

sdevDrawStatus

The `sdevDrawStatus` message indicates that the module has to redraw its display to reflect the most recent state. This message is typically sent when the user clicks on the module's display area, when any of the module's displays is resized, or when the Control Strip itself needs to be updated, perhaps in response to a screen saver deactivation.

The `statusRect` parameter points to a rectangle bounding the module's display area, in local coordinates. All drawing done by a module within the bounds of the Control Strip must be limited to the module's display rectangle. The graphics port's `clipRgn` will be set to the visible portion of this rectangle so you can draw all the elements in the display. If you need to change the `clipRgn`, you should observe the initial `clipRgn` to avoid drawing over other items in the Control Strip.

sdevMouseClicked

When the user clicks in a module's display area, the Control Strip software calls the module with the `sdevMouseClicked` message if the `sdevWantMouseClicks` bit is set in the module's features.

If the `sdevDontAutoTrack` bit is also set, the Control Strip draws the module's display in its highlighted state and then sends the `sdevMouseClicked` message to the module. If the `sdevDontAutoTrack` bit is not set, the Control Strip software tracks the cursor until the mouse button is released. If the cursor is still within the module's display area, the Control Strip software sends the `sdevMouseClicked` message to notify the module that a click occurred. In either case, the module can then perform the appropriate function in response to a mouse-down event.

This message returns the same result as the `sdevPeriodicTickle` message.

sdevSaveSettings

The `sdevSaveSettings` message is passed to the module when the Control Strip software has determined that it's a good time to save configuration information to the disk. This message will be sent only if the module had previously set the `sdevNeedToSave` bit in the result of a `sdevPeriodicTickle` or `sdevMouseClicked` message. The module should return an error code (File Manager, Resource Manager, or the like) indicating the success of the save operation. The Control Strip software will continue to send this message to the module until the module returns a result of 0, indicating a successful save.

sdevShowBalloonHelp

The Control Strip software calls the module with the `sdevShowBalloonHelp` message if Balloon Help is turned on, the module has previously set the `sdevHasCustomHelp` bit in its features, and the cursor is over the module's display area. The module should then call the Help Manager to display a help balloon describing the current state of the module. The module should return a value of 0 if it's successful or an appropriate error result if not.

Utility Routines

The Control Strip software provides a set of utility routines that are available to Control Strip modules. They are provided to promote a consistent user interface within the Control Strip and to reduce the amount of duplicated code that each module would have to include to support common functions.

The utility routines are called through a selector-based trap, `_ControlStripDispatch` (`$AAF2`). If an unimplemented routine is called, it will return `paramErr` as the result.

Warning: These routines should not be called at interrupt time because they all move memory.

SBIControlStripVisible

You can use the `SBIControlStripVisible` routine to find out whether the Control Strip is visible.

```
pascal Boolean SBIControlStripVisible();
```

The `SBIControlStripVisible` routine returns a `Boolean` value indicating whether or not the Control Strip is currently visible. It returns a value of `true` if the Control Strip is visible, or a value of `false` if it's hidden.

It is possible for this call to return a value of `true` even when the Control Strip is not visible. That happens whenever the Control Strip is not accessible in the current environment. As soon as that condition changes, the Control Strip becomes visible again and the returned value correctly reflects the actual state.

SBShowHideControlStrip

You can use the `SBShowHideControlStrip` routine to show or hide the Control Strip.

```
pascal void SBShowHideControlStrip(Boolean showIt);
```

The `SBShowHideControlStrip` routine determines the visibility state for the Control Strip based on the value of the `showIt` parameter. Passing a value of `true` makes the Control Strip visible, and passing a value of `false` hides it. Modules shouldn't typically need to call this routine, but it's provided as a means for other software to hide the Control Strip when it might get in the way.

Calling `SBShowHideControlStrip` with a `showIt` value of `true` may or may not show the Control Strip, depending on the current environment: if the Control Strip is not accessible, it does not become visible. If a `showIt` value of `true` is passed to this routine, then when the environment changes, the Control Strip will become visible.

SBSafeToAccessStartupDisk

You can use the `SBSafeToAccessStartupDisk` routine to find out whether the internal hard disk is spinning so that your software can determine whether to make a disk access or postpone it until a time when the disk is already spinning.

```
pascal Boolean SBSafeToAccessStartupDisk();
```

The `SBSafeToAccessStartupDisk` routine returns a Boolean value of true if the disk is spinning and false if it is not.

SBOpenModuleResourceFile

You can use the `SBOpenModuleResourceFile` routine to open a module resource file.

```
pascal short SBOpenModuleResourceFile(OSType fileCreator);
```

The `SBOpenModuleResourceFile` routine opens the resource fork of the module file whose creator is `fileCreator`, and returns the file's reference number as its result. If the file cannot be found or opened, `SBOpenModuleResourceFile` returns a result of -1.

`SBOpenModuleResourceFile` provides a means for a module to load in large or infrequently used resources that it doesn't usually need, but that it requires for a particular operation.

SBLoadPreferences

You can use the `SBLoadPreferences` routine to load a resource from a preferences file.

```
pascal OSErr SBLoadPreferences(ConstStr255Param prefsResourceName,  
                               Handle *preferences);
```

The `SBLoadPreferences` routine loads a resource containing a module's configuration information from the Control Strip's preferences file. The `prefsResourceName` parameter points to a Pascal string containing the name of the resource. The `preferences` parameter points to a variable that will hold a handle to the resource read from the file. The handle does not need to be preallocated.

If either `prefsResourceName` or `preferences` contains a nil pointer, `SBLoadPreferences` does nothing and returns a result of `paramErr`. If the resource is successfully loaded, it returns a result of 0. `SBLoadPreferences` can also return other Memory Manager and Resource Manager errors if it fails during some part of the process.

SBSavePreferences

You can use the `SBSavePreferences` routine to save a resource to a preferences file.

```
pascal OSErr SBSavePreferences(ConstStr255Param prefsResourceName,  
                               Handle preferences);
```

The `SBSavePreferences` routine saves a resource containing a module's configuration information to the Control Strip's preferences file. The `prefsResourceName` parameter

points to a Pascal string containing the name of the resource. The `preferences` parameter contains a handle to a block of data which will be written to the file.

If either `prefsResourceName` or `preferences` has a nil value, `SBSavePreferences` does nothing and returns a result of `paramErr`. If the resource is successfully saved, `SBSavePreferences` returns a result of 0. `SBSavePreferences` can also return other Memory Manager and Resource Manager errors if it fails during some part of the process.

SBGetDetachedIndString

You can use the `SBGetDetachedIndString` routine to get a string from a detached resource.

```
pascal void SBGetDetachedIndString(StringPtr theString,
                                   Handle stringList,
                                   short whichString);
```

The `SBGetDetachedIndString` routine is the detached resource version of `GetIndString`. The parameter `theString` points to a Pascal string; `stringList` is a handle to a detached 'STR#' resource; and `whichString` is the index (1–n) into the array of Pascal strings contained in the detached resource. `SBGetDetachedIndString` will copy the string whose index is `whichString` into the space pointed to by `theString`. If `whichString` is out of range, `SBGetDetachedIndString` will return a zero-length string.

SBGetDetachIconSuite

You can use the `SBGetDetachIconSuite` routine to set up a detached icon suite.

```
pascal OSErr SBGetDetachIconSuite(Handle *theIconSuite,
                                   short theResID,
                                   unsigned long selector);
```

The `SBGetDetachIconSuite` routine creates a new icon suite, loads all of the requested icons, and then detaches the icons. The parameter `theIconSuite` points to the location where the handle to the icon suite will be stored; the parameter `theResID` is the resource ID of the icons that make up the icon suite; and the parameter `selector` tells which icons should be loaded into the suite. The `selector` parameter should typically contain one (or a combination of) the following values:

```
svAllLargeData 0x000000FF load large 32-by-32-pixel icons ('ICN#', 'icl4', 'icl8')
svAllSmallData 0x0000FF00 load small 16-by-16-pixel icons ('ics#', 'ics4', 'ics8')
svAllMiniData  0x00FF0000 load mini 12-by-12-pixel icons ('icm#', 'icm4', 'icm8')
```

These values may be OR-ed together to load combinations of icon sizes. `SBGetDetachIconSuite` returns an appropriate error code if it's unsuccessful, or 0 if it was able to load the icon suite. Note that if none of the icons comprising the icon suite could be found, the call returns the error `resNotFound`.

Warning: You should call `SBGetDetachIconSuite` only when the module's resource file is open, which is typically the case during a module's initialization call.

SBTrackpopupMenu

You can use the `SBTrackpopupMenu` routine to manage a pop-up menu.

```
pascal short SBTrackpopupMenu(const Rect *moduleRect,
                               MenuHandle theMenu);
```

The `SbTrackPopupMenu` routine handles setting up and displaying a pop-up menu associated with a module. The module should pass a pointer to its display rectangle and a handle to the menu to use. The menu will be displayed just above or below the module's display rectangle, allowing the user to view the current configuration or to change the settings. `SbTrackPopupMenu` returns which menu item was selected, or 0 if no item was selected because the user moved the cursor outside the menu's bounds.

Warning: Menus are displayed in the Control Strip's font, so don't use the `CheckItem()` routine to mark menu items, because a checkmark is supported only in the system font. Use the `SetItemMark()` routine instead and pass it a bullet (•).

SbTrackSlider

You can use the `SbTrackSlider` routine to display and set an arbitrary parameter.

```
pascal short SbTrackSlider(const Rect *moduleRect,  
                           short ticksOnSlider,  
                           short initialValue);
```

The `SbTrackSlider` routine displays an unlabeled slider above the module's display rectangle. You can use the slider for displaying and setting the state of an arbitrary parameter. The parameter `moduleRect` contains a pointer to the module's display rectangle; `ticksOnSlider` is the upper bounds of the value returned by the slider; and `initialValue` is the starting position (0 to `ticksOnSlider-1`). When the user releases the mouse button, `SbTrackSlider` returns the final position.

SbShowHelpString

You can use the `SbShowHelpString` routine to display a Help balloon.

```
pascal OSErr SbShowHelpString(const Rect *moduleRect,  
                              StringPtr helpString);
```

The `SbShowHelpString` routine displays a module's Help balloon. The module passes a pointer to its display rectangle and a pointer to a Pascal string, and the routine displays the balloon if possible. If the help string has a length of 0 or the Help Manager is unable to display a balloon, an error result is returned. If `SbShowHelpString` successfully displays the Help balloon, it returns a result of 0.

SbGetBarGraphWidth

You can use the `SbGetBarGraphWidth` routine to find out the how wide a bar graph drawn by `SbDrawBarGraph` (described next) will be so that a module can calculate its display width.

```
pascal short SbGetBarGraphWidth(short barCount);
```

The `SbGetBarGraphWidth` routine returns the width of a bar graph containing `barCount` segments. If `barCount` has a value less than 0, the `SbGetBarGraphWidth` routine returns a width of 0.

SbDrawBarGraph

You can use the `SBDrawBarGraph` routine to draw a bar graph.

```
pascal void SBDrawBarGraph(short level,
                          short barCount,
                          short direction,
                          Point barGraphTopLeft);
```

The `SBDrawBarGraph` routine draws a bar graph containing the number of segments specified by the `barCount` parameter in a module's display area. If the value of `barCount` is less than or equal to 0, `SBDrawBarGraph` does nothing.

The bar graph is drawn relative to the location specified by `barGraphTopLeft`. Figure 2 shows the way the point `barGraphTopLeft` determines the position of the bar graph.



Figure 2 Positioning a bar graph

The `level` parameter determines how many segments are highlighted. The value of `level` should be in the range of 0 to `barCount-1`. If the value of `level` is less than 0, no segments in the bar graph are highlighted; if `level` is greater than or equal to `barCount`, all segments in the bar graph are highlighted.

The `direction` parameter specifies which way the bar graph will be drawn to show a larger level. It should be one of the following values:

```
#define BarGraphSlopeLeft   -1 // max end of sloping graph is on the left
#define BarGraphFlatRight   0 // max end of flat graph is on the right
#define BarGraphSlopeRight  1 // max end of sloping graph is on the right
```

Figure 3 shows the resulting bar graph for each direction value. The arrows indicate which way an increasing level value is displayed. For sloped versions of the bar graph, the number of segments specified by the `barCount` value may not be larger than 8. If a larger `barCount` value is passed, `SBDrawBarGraph` draws nothing.

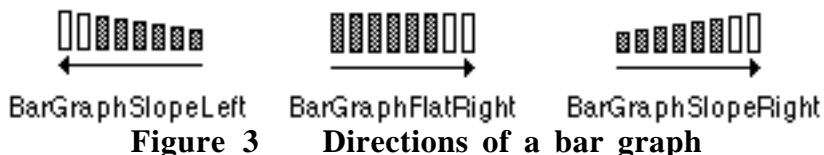


Figure 3 Directions of a bar graph

SBModalDialogInContext

You should use the `SBModalDialogInContext` in place of the `ModalDialog` routine to keep background applications from getting run while your modal dialog window is visible.

```
pascal void SBModalDialogInContext(ModalFilterProcPtr filterProc,
```

```
short *itemHit);
```

The `SBModalDialogInContext` routine is a special version of `ModalDialog` that doesn't allow background applications to get time while a modal dialog window is visible.

Gestalt Selectors

The Control Strip software installs two Gestalt selectors to return information to the outside world. One selector returns software attributes, and the other returns the software version.

gestaltControlStripAttr

The selector `gestaltControlStripAttr ('sdev')` returns 32 bits describing the software attributes of this version of the Control Strip. The following bits are defined:

<code>gestaltControlStripExists</code>	0	1 = Control Strip is installed
<code>gestaltControlStripVersionFixed</code>	1	1 = Gestalt selector has been fixed

The `gestaltControlStripVersionFixed` indicates that the correct Gestalt selector has been implemented for the Control Strip. An early version of Control Strip software used an incorrect Gestalt selector (it was incorrectly `'sdvr'`, which conflicted with a PowerTalk selector.)

gestaltControlStripVersion

The selector `gestaltControlStripVersion` ('csvr') returns the version of Control Strip software that is installed. The format of the returned version is the same as that of the numeric part of a 'vers' resource, that is:

Bits 31-24	Major part of the version, in BCD
Bits 23-20	Minor part of the version, in BCD
Bits 19-16	Bug release version, in BCD
Bits 15- 8	Release stage: \$80=final \$60=beta \$40=alpha \$20=development
Bits 7- 0	Revision level of nonreleased version, in binary

Thus, if the software version were 1.5.3b25, the `gestaltControlStripVersion` selector would return \$01536019.

Further Reference:

- Technical Note PT 35 - Stand-Alone Code, *ad nauseam*