

Cocoa for SwiftForth

Contents:

- [Preface](#)
- [Set up](#)
- [Cocoa interface implementation for SwiftForth](#)
- [Some handy GUI interactions](#)
- [The interface to foreign functions and the ObjC runtime:](#)
- [The interface to foreign libraries](#)
- [The interface to existing classes and methods](#)
- [The ObjC class making mechanism](#)
- [The multitasker](#)
- [The interface to windows, main words](#)
- [The interface to Core Graphics, Quartz 2D drawing](#)
- [Utilities](#)
- [OSX and macOS special cases](#)
- [Appendix A: Some support and info](#)
- [Appendix B: Examples](#)
- [Appendix C: How to create GUI items with Interface Builder and Forth](#)
- [Appendix D: Turnkey an Application bundle](#)
- [Postface](#)
- [License](#)

What is this?

Cocoa-for-SwiftForth is an extension for a Mac like experience. It includes an interface to the ObjC runtime to deal with Cocoa. Cocoa is the preferred GUI interface for the Mac at the moment.

Cocoa-for-SwiftForth also adds interfaces and functionality not Cocoa related: for instance Quartz interface for 2D drawing, which uses a 'normal' procedural C API. Access to more Apple/Mac technology like CoreAudio, CoreVideo, QuickTime etc. might be available on request.

And some of the additions are Forth related: my pet words and preferred (re)definitions.

What not to expect!

This extension is not a MacForth, Mach2, Mops etc. like environment. All the ingredients to make one, are there though. But it's outside the capabilities of this author. It is also not an Object Oriented extension to Forth aka OOF.

A tutorial is not included for Cocoa. But in short: Cocoa is the interface to the OS, written in a dynamic (late) binding class based object oriented language: Objective C.

A lot of information can be found on the web at Apple's developer site and others. Some links to support and info in Appendix A. Examples described in Appendix B could be useful for it's usage. A toy application is made in Appendix D. In addition, the documentation sections in the source and example files try to explain the how and why.

Much of the coco-sf origins and naming choices can be found here:

[1984 MacForth Manual](#)

[1985 Mach2 Manual](#)

A quick tour:

The MAC folder contains subfolders in which you can find the source files grouped to their specific tasks. The most important:

DOC	- Documentation
UTILS	- General utilities
SYSTEM	- OS specifics
IMAGE	- Quartz drawing
RESOURCES	- The NIB files repository
BUNDLING	- App bundle creator
COCOA	- The ObjC bridge, the Cocoa interface
HOTCOCO	- Cocoa demo's

Additional folders with examples and utilities

Set up:

This demo package mirrors my own set up. Not necessarily your preferred setup, but it should help you with this demo. The essential files for the Cocoa interface can be found in the cocoa folder. The other files are for support and comfort. Together they ought to work out of the box.

The SwiftForth/lib/samples/macos folder of your SwiftForth package, should contain a COCO-README.txt file explaining how to install.

In case you don't have an editor set for use with sf, you could save my SwiftForth-editor script file for [BBEdit](#), TextWrangler or [TextMate](#) in your home folder as .SwiftForth-editor (with dot in front). Edit it to point to the preferred editor. I use BBEdit. Make sure that the specific edit tools are installed. Follow the installation hints from the editor of choice.

The main program will be coco-sf which has to be made first:
launch sf in SwiftForth/bin/macos
type at prompt: requires new-coco.f

Launch coco-sf in SwiftForth/bin/macos
You should see something like this:

```
SwiftForth i386-macOS 3.10.3 06-Oct-2020  
Coco brewed: 14 November 2020 at 15:57:50 CET
```

hello again

You'll notice an icon is added in the Dock, this represents the Cocoa or NSApp part of coco-sf. Every GUI item you add will be dealt with by that side of coco-sf. It's the ObjC Runtime's responsibility.

coco-sf is not case sensitive. Upper case is shown here for clarity. BTW all names for the external functions, libraries, frameworks, selectors, classes and so forth are case sensitive when initially declared. After declaration you can use their Forth counterparts with whatever case you prefer.

Cocoa interface implementation for SwiftForth:

The Cocoa event-handler run by the application's NSApplication instance, must run on the main thread. Rather than interleave Forth and the ObjC runtime (for instance as an event driven Forth), they are kept apart.

Most Forth's are not fuzzy. So a new task (in sf a thread) is created which will run Forth i.e. QUIT. The main thread, will run the ObjC Runtime. It will execute the NSApplication 'run' method until quitting the application. From within Forth you can now interact with the ObjC Runtime via sending messages to existing classes and extending it by adding classes of your own. The initiating process is HOT.COCO and can be run by STARTER.

The main task is named OPERATOR. The new task which runs Forth, does that by pretending to be OPERATOR. Hence it's name: IMPOSTOR. It inherits all OPERATOR's user settings including I/O. So, out of the box coco-sf runs in your preferred shell in Terminal as if it is sf.

In general the ObjC Runtime and Forth run next to each other independently. There is no explicit event handling or event servicing you have to take care of. It's hands free...
Of course you can interfere when necessary.

A variation on the GUI version:

As said in Set up, an extra icon represents the app part of our NSApp. This is caused by the default initialisation. As of Mac OS X 10.9 Mavericks, you can run NSApp as an accessory as well. This means coco-sf does not appear in the Dock and has no menubar. But you can create windows and other GUI items and run them as you do with the regular application version.

```
NSApp @ /ACC          \ turns coco-sf in to a accessory  
NSApp @ /APP          \ turns coco-sf in to the default regular application
```

See mac/cocoa/sftococoa.f for the alternative way to initialise our NSApp.

Some handy GUI interactions:

Load a file:

- Type LOAD-FILE at Forth prompt

- A Finder dialog ("KiteBox") appears

- Choose whatever and click load button

- You could navigate to mac/hotcoco and load sfmenu.f

- It adds an application menu to coco-sf.

Note: It's no problem at all, to use coco-sf without a menubar. I do without most of the time.

Edit a file:

- Type EDIT-FILE at Forth prompt

- A Finder dialog appears

- Choose whatever and click load button

- Editor is launched when not there already

- Chosen file opens in new window

Loading from editor:

- Type LOAD-EDIT at Forth prompt

- Most recent file brought in to the editor with EDIT-FILE is loaded

Loading from Clipboard:

- Type LOAD-SCRAP at Forth prompt

- Will attempt to load whatever TXT in the Clipboard

The interface to foreign functions and the ObjC runtime:

Calling ObjC Runtime methods is using the same technique as used by calling external library functions in SwiftForth. A colon like definition is made, but only the colon-name-stackpicture is necessary:

```
: MYWORD ( n1 n2 -- n3 )
```

That's all. The body of the word or the code executed by the word is already defined in a library of course. Colon itself is not used, but colon-variations are used to distinguish the type of word to create: FUNCTION: COCOA: etc.

The stackpicture or stackmap between parenthesis is essential in the word creation. The calling mechanism uses the provided stackpicture to pop the required parameters from the Forth stack(s) and to sent them to the foreign function or method. The return values(s) are pushed on the Forth stack(s).

All coco -* distributions use this interface. Unlike the 32bit Forth systems, the 64bit versions use a second stackpicture for the fp doubles. They will be passed separately from the integer parameters in their own registers, popped from the fp stack.

The interfaces are relocatable after PROGRAM etc.

See mac/cocoa/cocoafunc.fth and mac/doc/c(-rationale.txt).

The interface to foreign libraries:

FRAMEWORK (spaces<name.framework> --)

-- creates 'name' and finds and opens related framework. Executing 'name' will make 'name' the current searched framework. The usage is similar to SwiftForth's LIBRARY.

Frameworks are a Mac way of accessing libraries, mostly umbrella libraries.

Example usage:

FRAMEWORK Carbon.framework

FUNCTION: CGWarpCursorPosition (floatx floaty -- ret)

The fun

OSX comes with many libraries installed. Some need Cocoa, others don't. Have a look in: /System/Library/Frameworks/

Some of which may be of special interest:

Accelerate.framework -- Scientific computing, blas, vectors etc.

OpenGL.framework -- 3D graphics

OpenCL.framework -- Parallel computing using the graphic chips

Many audio and video processing related frameworks.

Either install Xcode, Apple's development environment, or the CommandLineTools. This will take care of adding the header files to the frameworks. A lot, if not all, information can be found in those files!

The headers for the frameworks are in:

-- Xcode 4 and up (OSX 10.8 - macOS 10.13) :

/Applications/Xcode.app/Contents/Developer/Platforms/MacOSX.platform/
Developer/SDKs/MacOSX10.WHATEVER.sdk/System/Library/Frameworks

Installing the command-line tools will add the appropriate header files to /System/Library/Frameworks and /usr/include

Open Terminal and execute: xcode-select --install

Note: the latest developer tools do not install /usr/include anymore.

This folder can be found in

/Library/Developer/CommandLineTools/SDKs/*.sdk/usr/include

-- Prior versions of Xcode installed the headers in /System/Library/Frameworks only.

The interface to existing classes and methods:

COCOAClass (<name> --)

-- like a constant, will cache the class id from name. When executing 'name', return its id.

Cocoa: (<name> <params...> --)

-- Similar to FUNCTION: but for ObjC messages. Strips the @ character in front of the method name if there. The @ character could be used as 'Cocoa-call' identifier. Not necessary. During execution the selector for the method is send to the receiver.

The parameter list is parsed to create code to pass the parameters with the selector to the receiver.

SUPERCOCOA: (<name> <params...> --)

-- Similar to COCOA: but sending the message to receiver's superclass.

Cocoa-STRET: (<name> <params...> --)

-- Similar to COCOA: but needs an extra structure pointer for the receivers return values.

SUPERCOCOA-STRET: (<name> <params...> --)

-- Similar to COCOA-STRET: but for receivers superclass.

Cocoa-FPRET: (<name> <params...> --)

-- Similar to COCOA: but receiver returns a float.

Example usage:

```
COCOAClass NSProcessInfo
```

```
Cocoa: @processInfo ( -- NSProcessInfo-object )
```

```
Cocoa: @operatingSystemVersionString ( -- NSStringRef )
```

```
Cocoa: @getCString: ( buffer -- ret )
```

```
PAD DUP 40 ERASE          \ setup pad
```

```
NSProcessInfo @processInfo \ get processInfo for current process
```

```
@operatingSystemVersionString \ get OS version as a NSString
```

```
@getCString: DROP        \ use pad to convert info into C string
```

```
PAD ZCOUNT TYPE         \ yeah
```

Further examples can be found in the hotcoco folder, see Appendix B.

Note: swizzling-test.f shows how to change existing method implementations. For the curious and the brave.

The ObjC class making mechanism:

NEW.CLASS (class-id <spaces name> --)
-- will setup for a new class called name with class-id as super class

ADD.METHOD (implementation types name class --)
-- add instance-method to class under construction

ADD.CLASSMETHOD (implementation types name metaclass --)
-- add class-method to class under construction

ADD.IVAR (type name class --)
-- add instance-variable to class under construction

ADD.CLASS (class-id --)
-- finish building process

Example usage:

```
\ what the method will do implemented as Forth callback  
:NONAME ( rec sel -- ret )  IMPOSTOR'S ." That's all!" CR 0 ;  
2 CB: *simple
```

```
\ the arguments type encodings  
: TYPES 0" V@" ;
```

```
NSObject NEW.CLASS simpleClass          \ setup for class building  
*simple TYPES Z" simple" simpleClass ADD.METHOD  \ add a method  
simpleClass ADD.CLASS                    \ finish building class
```

```
COCOA: @simple ( -- ret )                \ make method usable  
simpleClass @alloc @init VALUE me       \ create an instance of simpleClass  
me @simple DROP                          \ etc.
```

Further examples can be found in the hotcoco folder, see Appendix B.

Note: the method implementation, here the Forth callback, does have the receiver and selector parameters! Normally you should put them in the parameter list from the callback as the leftmost parameters (exception is when dealing with structure return 'stret' methods). The ObjC runtime passes them round during the method evocation process. With COCOA: they're implied, you should not put them in the parameter list, it's done for you.

The multitasker:

The coco-sf multitasker is a mix of Mach, POSIX and GCD calls. SwiftForth's POSIX multitasker is extended with Grand Central Dispatch (GCD) multitasking possibilities. GCD is optimized for multitasking on multicore CPU's. Read the source file to see what POSIX calls not to use.

The main extension task words:

IMPOSTOR (-- task)

-- task record secondary task. Runs Forth next to OPERATOR which now runs the ObjC runtime.

DISPATCH (task --)

-- GCD version of SwiftForth's POSIX ACTIVATE.

ACTIVATE (task --)

-- redefined as a deferred word. The original ACTIVATE is redefined as POSIX.ACTIVATE. Use either DISPATCH or POSIX.ACTIVATE to execute. Default ACTIVATE is GCD

DONE (task --)

-- terminate task. Task record will be cleared.

More more words can be found in the SwiftForth sourcefiles and documentation and in the mac/system folder: task-control.f dispatchtasking.f and mach-task.f files.

See Appendix B for more (GCD) examples.

The interface to windows, main words:

`NEW.WINDOW (spaces<name> --)`

-- create a window record with name. Fills in record with default settings.

Leaves record address, `wptr4`, when executed

`ADD.WINDOW (wptr4 --)`

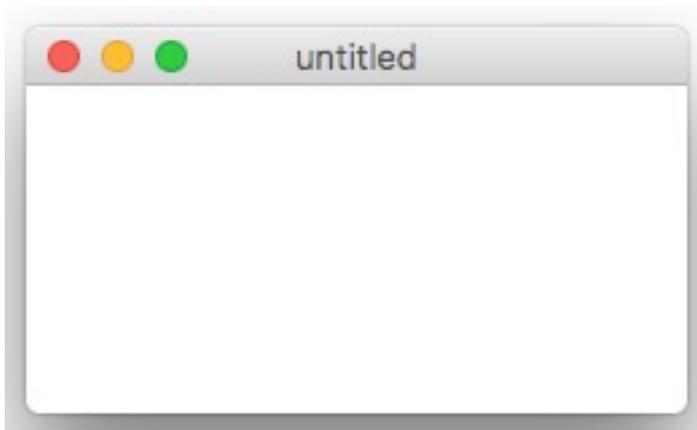
-- create actual window and show on screen. Uses settings found in window record.

More words can be found in the `mac/cocoa` folder: `nswindow.f` and `window-utils.f` files.

Example usage:

`NEW.WINDOW win`

`win ADD.WINDOW`



The contentView:

A window has a default `contentView`. This is the placeholder for the content i.e. text, web pages, control items like buttons etc. You can replace the default view or add subviews. Appendix B has examples for `webView`, `documentView`, widgets (button and slider):

-- `shellview.f` include `scrollview-for-nswindow.f`

-- `runweb-test.f` includes `cocoawebview.f`

-- `custom-control.f`

All `contentView` setting and initialising should be done on the main thread, retrieving information can be done from other threads as well.

`MAKE.CONTENTVIEW (viewref wptr4 --)`

-- executes on the main thread, sets a window's `contentView`.

The interface to Core Graphics, Quartz 2D drawing:

Include the appropriate CG.F load file found in the mac/image/quartz folder
The API to Core Graphics is not an ObjC API!

Note: all coordinates, colours etc. are floating point.

Some (essential) words:

/GWINDOW (wptr4 --)

-- initialises windows graphic context

CGCONTEXT (wptr4 -- cgcontext)

-- retrieves graphic context for drawing etc.

MOVE.TO (cgcontext --) (F: x y --)

-- move pen to point. Floating point coordinates!

LINE (cgcontext --) (F: x1 y1 x2 y2 --)

-- draw line between points x1y1 and x2y2

DOT (cgcontext --) (F: x y --)

-- draw dot at point xy

WIPE (wptr4 --)

-- clear window

Example usage:

```
NEW.WINDOW ABOUTWIN
```

```
S" ABOUT..." ABOUTWIN W.TITLE
```

```
ABOUTWIN DUP ADD.WINDOW /GWINDOW
```

```
Z" file:///swift.jpg" ABOUTWIN DRAWPIC
```



See Appendix B for more examples.

Navigating the file system:

Waypoints are used to find your way during includes. They set the working directory to predefined paths.

Predefined waypoints are: SwiftForth, MAC, Home, and Desktop. Of course you can change them to fit your situation. See mac/utils/waypoints.f

Example usage:

```
PUSHPATH          \ save current working directory
MAC               \ make mac working directory
INCLUDE sound/sc.f \ load from here
POPPATH          \ restore and continue
```

Extending CB: and CALLBACK:

The sequence :NONAME ... CB: ... is used a lot, so FORTHCALL: is added which does the same in one word.

Compiling in callbacks:

Special care should be taken in callbacks when compiling. This could happen via INCLUDE. Because there's only one dictionary, any change to it should be relayed to IMPOSTOR.

This is most convenient done via <SYNC ...compiling... SYNC>

An example can be found in mac/hotcoco/sfmenu.f

Turnkey proof:

The Cocoa interface must be turnkey proof. The word /COCOALINKS takes care of relinking all used classes and methods to their proper class id's and message selectors.

Missing features:

Although very useful in its current form, there's no doubt room for improvements and additions. There's rudimentary adding of GUI objects like menu's and controls programmatically. However these are still more easily build with Apple's Interface Builder. Problem with this application is the ever changing layout. A description how to use it, would be outdated the moment you read this. However an attempt is made in Appendix C.

OSX and macOS special cases:

OSX 10.9 Mavericks introduced a new feature: App Nap. It is used by the OS to put an application to sleep under certain circumstances.

The NSApp part of COCO-SF, the main thread/task, is not doing anything for us when not having any GUI or main thread related things going on.

Apparently the OS sees this as the whole application idling, and puts the app napping. With consequences for Forth. The code to deal with this and more info can be found in `mac/cocoa/no-nap.f`

OSX 10.10 Yosemite spills some debug information in our repl when putting the file navigation box (kite-box) on the screen. This seems to be fixed in macOS 10.12 Sierra. The temporary fix can be found in `yosemite.f`

OSX 10.11 El Capitan up to and including macOS 10.14 Mojave have caused a rewrite of the ObjC interface related to creating windows on a secondary thread. The initialisation of NSWindows and subclasses should be done on the main thread.

This avoids weird live update behaviour when resizing a window.

When you need to execute methods on the main thread, you can use `FORMAIN` which is shorthand for the NSObject message `performSelectorOnMainThread:withObject:waitUntilDone:.`

Your method will be queued on the main event-loop. Similar is the word `PASS` which will take a Forth xt with any number of parameters and queues it on the main event-loop. Usage concerns UI related code and working with `NSViews` and its subclasses. Those are better done on the main thread. Prior to EL Capitan, this wasn't an issue!

All of the main thread fixes can be found in `mac/system/osfixers.f` which is included last in the `mac-sf.f` load file. Default is to have them all in. So far they're harmless in OS versions which don't need them.

For `PASS` see `mac/cocoa/cocoaforth.f` and `FORMAIN` can be found in `mac/cocoa/goodies.f`

Appendix A: Some support and info

Useful with Cocoa:

[Tutorials](#) from Cocoa Dev Central for Cocoa and ObjC
[Mike Ash blog](#) for Cocoa, ObjC and Swift, very informative
[StackOverflow](#) with tags like cocoa, osx, objective-c
[Apple](#) obviously, but grab info while links are still valid (even this one!),
computer-rage has its origins here...

Take care when in Apple:

The graphic system works with CGFloats, not integers! The size depends on the application being 32 or 64bit. Thus SFLOATs in SwiftForth and VFX, DFLOATs in iForth64 and VFX64.

In general, when passing structures to external functions, structures of up to 4 members are passed by their individual values. So not a pointer to the structure. Thus a rect structure (CGRect or NSRect) is passed as 4 CGFloats, i.e. 4 parameters in stead of 1.

Point and size structures are returned as two CGFloats on the F: stack. Rectangle structure values are returned in a passed-in pointer to a rect structure. The infamous hidden structure parameter used by C compilers! You have to provide this pointer and fetching it's contents yourself.

Cocoa provides COCOA-STRET: to help with the latter.
See nswindows.f and window-utils.f for usage: @frame etc.

In the procedural CoreGraphics, FUNCTION: is used for externals. When encountering a case of a returned rect structure, put the return-structure as the left most in-parameter in the declaration.

C declaration:

```
CGRect CGContextGetPathBoundingBox(CGContextRef c);
```

Forth declaration:

```
FUNCTION: CGContextGetPathBoundingBox ( CGRect CGContextRef -- ret )
```

You'll see a lot of int<->fp mucking around, sorry.
When in Rome...

Multithreading and the GUI:

[Check this Apple Threading Guide](#). Still it says windows can be created on a secondary thread [here](#), while in OSX 10.11 El Capitan and up you better not.

Coming from other Unix/Linux:

[Porting UNIX/Linux Applications to OS X](#)

[Porting Drivers to OS X](#)

More information on the Cocoa interface for SwiftForth on the Mac:

A lot of files... Are they all necessary?

Actually no, they're not. Only two(!) files are essential.

You could use these two for a Cocoa interface in your own words...

COCOACORE.F for the system calls to communicate with the ObjC Runtime.

COCOALAUNCH-MAIN-THREAD.F for the integration of the ObjC Runtime.

Take care with Cocoa:

To quote from Apple's [Porting UNIX/Linux Applications to OS X](#) document:

“You should be careful when writing code using Cocoa, because the same constructs that make it easy for the developer tend to degrade performance when overused. In particular, heavy use of message passing can result in a sluggish application.

The ideal use of Cocoa is as a thin layer on top of an existing application. Such a design gives you not only good performance and ease of GUI design, but also minimises the amount of divergence between your UNIX code base and your OS X code base.”

Obviously, the same applies for a Forth application and a Cocoa GUI interface.

Portability:

The Cocoa interface runs on several 32 and 64 bit Forth systems, nearly unaltered. This means the code doesn't grab deep in the system. But for VFX and SwiftForth there's a 'speed-up' unportable version of the ObjC calling mechanism. The files concerned are `cocoacore.f` and `cocoabridge.f`. The folder `mac/cocoa/port` contains the original portable versions.

Alternatives:

1. [iMops](#) is a continuation of the legendary Neon development system on the classic Mac. It's 64bit Intel native and Cocoa based.
2. For graphical output, say plotting functions, one doesn't need this Cocoa interface. [AquaTerm](#) provides a Cocoa plot-window and easy to use API.
3. Not Cocoa but Carbon (the previous Apple GUI) is [MFonVFX](#). For legacy Mac Forth code or development for the now or near future, very worthwhile!
Note: a 64bit future version should not be counted on.

Appendix B: Examples

Cocoa in action, HOTCOCO folder:

simple-example.f

Prints process name using Cocoa calls.

help.f

Defines HELP for SwiftForth and coco-sf

nsalertpanel.f

Show modal alert box, using a deprecated way of doing this. Notice how the ObjC runtime complains in the Forth console.

nsalert.f

A correct way to display alerts.

nsalert-expanded.fth

Elaborated version, adding special features.

simple-class.f

Use Forth to build an ObjC class.

delegate-test.f

Change event-handling using delegation, create a subclass for delegation.

self-delegate-example.f

Change event-handling using NSWindow instances itself as delegate.

swizzling-test.f

Change event-handling by changing method implementation, not real method swizzling, but somewhat similar.

fastcocoa.f

Bypass the message sending part of a method. Execute the method implementation directly as an external procedural function.

Change late binding to early binding...

cursor.f

Hide and show the mouse cursor. Very useful with presenting graphics.

mouselocation.f

Get mouse coordinates using NSEvent.

cocoa-focus.f

Several kiosk modes for focussing on work, hiding stuff when projecting etc.

launches.f

Launch the default applications when opening files or URL's.

simplemenu.f

Create and add a rudimentary menubar without the use of a NIB

sfmenu.f

Add a menu to COCO-SF, using NIB file and actions defined in a Forth created ObjC class.

included-menu.f

Add an -Included- menu to COCO-SF menubar programmatically.

appearance.f

Set appearance mode for GUI elements in macOS 10.14 Mojave.

testcontroller.f

Build a controller using a NIB file and its actions defined in a Forth created ObjC class.

custom-control.f

Programmatically build and show a controller object without using a NIB file. Interesting is how you can add methods to an existing class.

mycontroller.f

Programmatically set GUI element from a NIB file. Also shows the preferred loading from a NIB file.

mybuttonstaged.f

Another GUI example with a NIB file. It uses tagged UI items for simplified action access.

runweb-test.f

Browse the web with WebKit. Uses a so called HUD navigation bar.

sf-outview.f

Includes necessary files for text output to a window. Changes output words only.

sf-outview-personality.f

Includes necessary files for text output to a window. Uses a personality change.

sf-textview.f --DEPRECATED--

Includes necessary files to create a Cocoa console for sf, a toy application.

worksheet-tool.f

in sf-textview folder. Save and restore contents textview.

shellview.f

Includes necessary files to create a Cocoa console for coco-vfx, a toy application. This uses the NextStep pipes. Preferred over sf-textview.f

Simple Quartz in action, IMAGE/QUARTZ folder:

cg.f

Initial load file for some necessary Quartz functionality.

cgcontext-draw-test.f

Simple example, splashing dots or lines in a window.

cgcontext-squares-task-test.f

A task draws coloured squares in a borderless window.

cgimage-slideshow-test.f

Perform a slide show. Provide your own image set!!

cgpath-test.f

Trivial exercise using CG paths.

randomwalks.f

Plot our random steps in a window

Grand Central Dispatch examples in SYSTEM and SCHEDULING folder:

gcd-timers.f

Use GCD for many independent timers.

cause-gcd.f

Cause words to execute at given times. Famous scheduler from STEIM.

fork.f

Parallel execution on multicore machines using GCD.

spawn.f

Not GCD but POSIX. Spawn a word in an anonymous task/thread.

realtime-priority.f

Tread priority setting. In pursuit of controlling the Mach scheduler.

IOKit folder:

ioserviceshow.f

Show Device-tree. Similar to Apple's IORegistryExplorer.

hidmanager.f

The HID Manager is Apple's preferred HID access.

iokit-serialbsd.f

Access BSD serial device files in /dev Useful for SwiftX.

zzz-sleep.f

Put computer to sleep using IOKit calls.

GDB and LLDB debugging in MAC and SYSTEM folder:

applescript.f

Apple script interface.

mach-task.f

Mach kernel task and thread stuff.

gdb.f

AppleScript to launch GDB with SwiftForth attached.

lldb.f

AppleScript to launch LLDB with SwiftForth attached.

gdb-debug.f and lldb-debug.f load-files.

Also see the info in /mac/doc/debugger

Appendix C: How to create GUI items with Interface Builder and Forth

As an example create a menu for coco-sf. Two things are needed: a nib file describing the menu's and a Forth source file implementing the actions called by some of the menu's.

sfmenu.f (in Hotcoco) is a Forth source file, wherein an ObjC class is created which acts as a delegate class to deal with some menu functions:

SFMenuClass.

Note: no need to assign it as a NSApplication delegate, the OS takes care.

The following instance methods are added to this class:

- menuQuit:
- menuOpenFile:
- menuLoadFile:
- menuLoadEdit:
- menuVerbose:
- menuAbort:
- menuHelp:
- menuHelp2:
- menuHelp3:
- menuHelp4:

These methods will serve as so-called IBActions for the menu handling. For now the connection between this class and the actual menu items is established with Interface Builder.

Better would be to do this programmatically.

The reason is that IB changes and possibly could turn in to ObjC usage only... The disappearance of IB as a Xcode independent program since Xcode v. 4 being a point in case. The problem is not the integration in to Xcode, but the added dependence on (source) code!

In IB3 you add methods to a class object, by just filling in some names in text fields. There's no ObjC in sight, very convenient if you're not using ObjC.

With the IB component in Xcode4 and later you need a source .m or header .h file to add methods to a class object. So how do you do this with non C derived languages?

Until a better way is found, use some cut and paste:

1. Create file named after your delegate class. Give it .h extension.
example: SFMenuClass.h
2. Add the template header stuff, with the wanted action prototypes.
example:

```
//  
// SFMenuClass.h  
//  
  
#import <Cocoa/Cocoa.h>  
  
@interface SFMenuClass : NSObject <NSApplicationDelegate>  
  
- (IBAction)menuQuit:(id)sender;  
- (IBAction)menuOpenFile:(id)sender;  
- (IBAction)menuLoadFile:(id)sender;  
- (IBAction)menuLoadEdit:(id)sender;  
- (IBAction)menuVerbose:(id)sender;  
- (IBAction)menuAbort:(id)sender;  
- (IBAction)menuHelp:(id)sender;  
- (IBAction)menuHelp2:(id)sender;  
- (IBAction)menuHelp3:(id)sender;  
- (IBAction)menuHelp4:(id)sender;  
  
@end
```

Save it.

(obvious in your own implementations
change SFMenuClass to your class name
change all method names between (IBAction) and (id)
don't forget all names should end with a colon :
and delete all declarations you don't need)

3. Launch Xcode

In File menu hit New, choose File and then choose the appropriate template from the presented dialog.

Here: main menu

Follow instructions and a file mainmenu.xib will be created.

An Interface Builder worksheet will be presented. If not, go to File menu and choose Open... select the just created mainmenu.x

At the left you'll see a list of icons representing the objects you use. The middle part is the worksheet.

At the top right you see a series of small icons, representing amongst them the Identity Inspector and the Connections Inspector, which you'll need later on.

The bottom right has a series of icons representing the libraries of things to add to your project. You select the object library.

4. In File menu hit Add Files... and select your .h file navigating with the presented kite-box.
5. From the object library, drag an object icon (blue cube) to work field. This will be the delegate class.
6. Select blue cube which is now in the list on the left and select the Identity Inspector.
Fill in the name of your delegate class in the class name field.
Here: SFMenuClass
8. Select the blue cube icon, now named after your delegate class and select the Connections Inspector. You should see the added 'received actions'.
9. Now construct/adapt your GUI, here the main menu. Play around selecting, dragging, moving/copying, deleting the objects in the worksheet and/or manipulate the Main Menu object in the list at the left.

NewApplication menu: — leave as is.

File menu: — rename New to Open File... using the Identity Inspector, add Cmd O as shortcut.

— rename Open... to Load File..., add Cmd L as shortcut.

— rename Open Recent to Load from Editor, add Cmd I as shortcut.

— copy the horizontal spacer between Open File... and Load File...

— rename Close to Verbose.

— delete the rest.

Edit menu: — leave as is or keep what's necessary for you.

Format menu: — rename as Misc and keep one menu item named Abort.
add Cmd . as shortcut.

View menu: — delete it.

Windows menu — leave as is.

Help menu — copy NewApplication Help 3 times (4 help items total).
— rename them top to bottom:
SwiftForth Reference Manual
Cocoa for SwiftForth Info
ANS Forth Standard
Forth Handbook

Assign the appropriate actions to the menu items.

Click on the NewApplication menu to have the menu's drop down. Now select the blue cube called Menu Class in the object list at the left. Go to the Connections Inspector and Ctrl click (hold button down) the MenuQuit: action and drag the appearing connection line to the Application quit menu and let go.

Connection established. Do this for all the actions defined in the SFMenuClass.

The menu items we didn't touch, call their default actions when hit.

So the font setting is taken care of by the OS, we don't need to assign its actions. Others only do something if they have a context for their actions.

10. When done, save and export to a nib file.

example: sfmenu.nib

Note: when you load this nib file in Forth, you could see a message like:
[QL] Can't get plugin bundle info at file://localhost/Applications/Xcode.app/Contents/Library/QuickLook/SourceCode.qlgenerator/

Don't worry, the nib stuff is loaded alright. Nib files created with IB3 don't have this, it's something related with Xcode4:

/Xcode.app/Contents/Library/QuickLook is missing in a default installed Xcode4.

Solve this if you have Xcode3 still around.

Copy the (Xcode 3 version) Xcode.app/Contents/Library/QuickLook directory to (Xcode 4 version) Xcode.app/Contents/Library/

Appendix D: Turnkey an Application bundle

coco-sf is an ordinary extended sf. PROGRAM is used to create the commandline tool. Terminal.app provides the REPL and I/O.

An application bundle is a directory/folder structure containing executable, preferences, resources and helpfiles. The OS presents this as one executable file: a (dot) .app file. Terminal.app isn't necessarily involved.

Three turnkey files to create a bundled application are provided:

new-toy.f

Creates a bundled Cocoa GUI version of coco-sf with its own REPL and menubar. The terminal isn't used. No line editing as found in the commandlinetool version.

new-padbury.f

Creates a screensaver using a Quartz Composition by Australian American designer Robert Padbury a former Apple employee. It shows a running clock. The code driving the Quartz Composition runs in IMPOSTOR. The Forth interpreter isn't used/initialized.

-- new-maps.f

Creates an alternative to Apple's MAPS. Here Openstreetmap is running in a webview. The ObjC runtime drives the whole scene. IMPOSTOR isn't used.

Postface

The Cocoa ObjC interface was developed with the following in mind:

- Similar in usage as other interfaces in MacForth and Mach2. Think of things like NEW-XXX ADD.XXX etc.
- No hacks, no shortcuts. Should survive OS upgrades.
- Try to stay close to ObjC names and procedures. Makes Apple examples easy to follow and to implement.
- Easy installable on several Darwin Forth systems: iForth, VFX, SwiftForth. Breaking the rules at times is inevitable.

The end result looks like an OOF extension. However, it should be noted that the interface deals with the ObjC Runtime and not with the Forth system!

The Cocoa interface (2008-2020) runs in CarbonMacForth, iForth, iForth64, SwiftForth, VFX, MFonVFX and VFX64. Current version is ObjC 2 Runtime compatible and runs in Mac OSX Snow Leopard 10.6 up to and including macOS 10.15 Catalina.

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Anyway, feedback is very welcome and I love to hear about usage.

Huissen November 2020

(include cocoawebview.f run the proper MAPS)

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