



USER MANUAL · HANDLE WITH CURIOSITY

CableCheck

The Utterly Definitive Guide

For everyone who has ever stared at a tangle of USB-C cables, a dock, three hubs and a mystery adapter, and silently questioned their life choices. This manual fixes that — or at least explains the chaos to you in plain language.

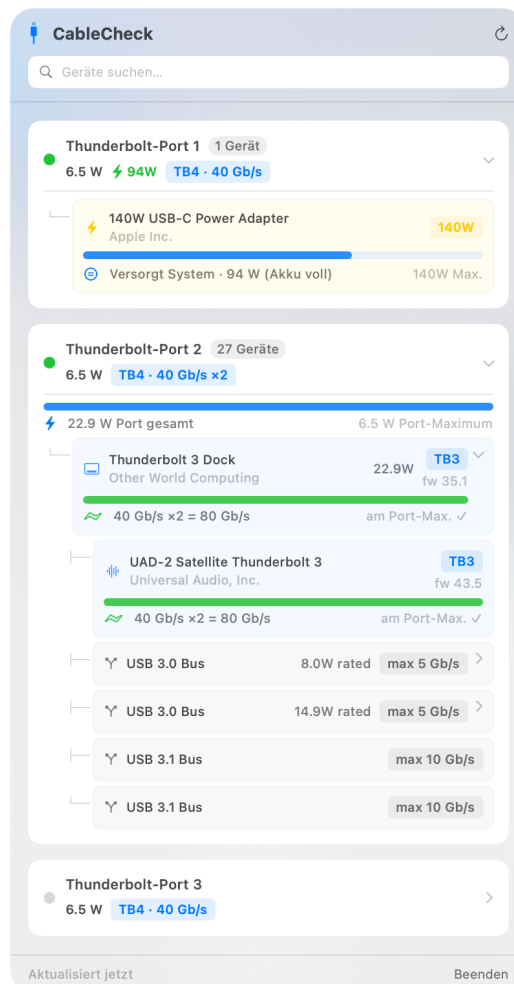
All screenshots in this manual are taken from a real, currently-plugged-in Mac. Nothing was staged. Thunderbolt Port 2 really does have 27 devices on it. I checked. Several times. I'm a little worried too. (The screenshots happen to show the developer's Mac in German — CableCheck looks and works exactly the same in English.)

What Is This Thing?

CableCheck lives quietly in your menu bar and answers the one question you ask every time something stops working: “wait, what is actually plugged into what?”

Click the little cable icon up top, and CableCheck draws you a family tree of everything connected to your Mac — Thunderbolt ports, USB hubs, docks, chargers, flash drives, audio interfaces, that keyboard you forgot you plugged in — all in one tidy, scrollable list. No Terminal commands, no system_profiler essays, no guessing.

Real talk: the Mac below is not a fictional demo unit. It is my genuine, currently-in-use desk setup with a dock, a second dock hanging off that dock, an audio interface, and enough USB hubs to qualify as a small ecosystem. If your own setup looks anything like this, CableCheck was basically built for you.



The view seconds after opening CableCheck. Port 1: a 140 W charger. Port 2: an entire small business.

Reading the Tree

Each rounded card is one physical port on your Mac. Everything indented underneath it is something plugged into that port — directly, or three hubs deep.

The basics, decoded

Colored dot — green means something is connected or drawing power; grey means the port is bored and empty.

The pill next to the port name (e.g. “27 items”) — a running total of everything attached under that port, so you know at a glance which port is secretly hosting a small data center.

The blue bar — total power everything on that port is drawing, versus what the port can actually deliver. Handy for the moment you wonder why your dock suddenly stopped charging your laptop at full speed.

Speed badges like “TB4 · 40 Gb/s” or “5 Gb/s · USB 3.2 Gen 1” — the negotiated link speed. A green checkmark and “at port max” means the device and cable are squeezing out every available bit. Orange means something — the device, the cable, or an elderly hub — is the bottleneck. Tap the little info icon when it shows up to find out exactly who to blame.

Hubs inside hubs inside hubs

Yes, that is allowed. A dock can contain a hub, which contains another hub, which finally holds your keyboard. CableCheck draws every one of these levels as a nested branch, connector-lines and all, so you can actually see the chain instead of just despairing at it.

Case in point: Thunderbolt Port 2 below hosts a dock, an audio interface, four separate USB buses, and enough hubs that CableCheck had to invent connector art to keep it all legible. This is what “27 devices on one port” looks like in the wild.

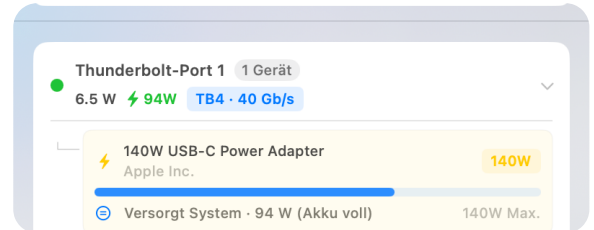
The Power Adapter Card

If a charger is plugged in, it gets its own card — because power deserves recognition too.

This card shows the adapter's name, its rated maximum, and what it's actually delivering right now. “Versorgt System” (German for “Powering system”) means it's charging your Mac's battery or running it directly. Once the battery hits 100%, the wattage drops — that's normal, not a fault.

The bar compares live delivery against the adapter's rated maximum, so you can tell a genuine 140 W brick from a suspiciously modest travel charger pretending it can keep up.

This is the only card in the entire app that's allowed to brag about its own Watts. 94 out of 140 W here — respectable, if a little smug about it.

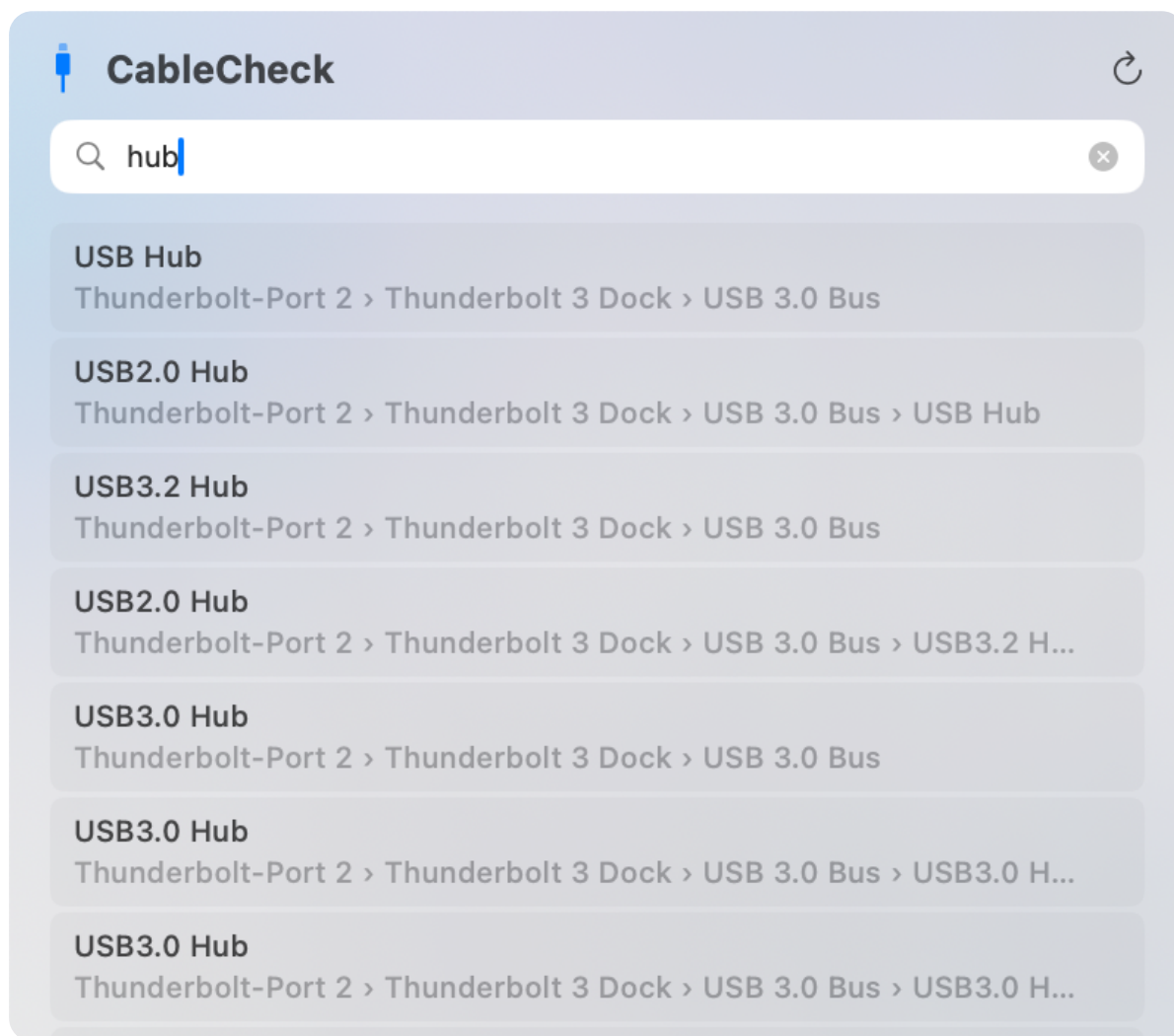


140 W in, 94 W out. The remaining 46 apparently went towards feeling proud of itself.

Finding a Needle in a Haystack

Once your setup grows past “a couple of things plugged in,” scrolling through the tree to find one specific device stops being funny. That’s what the search field at the top is for.

Start typing any part of a device’s name and CableCheck instantly shows every match, complete with a breadcrumb trail so you know exactly where each one is hiding — port, dock, bus, hub, and however many hubs after that.

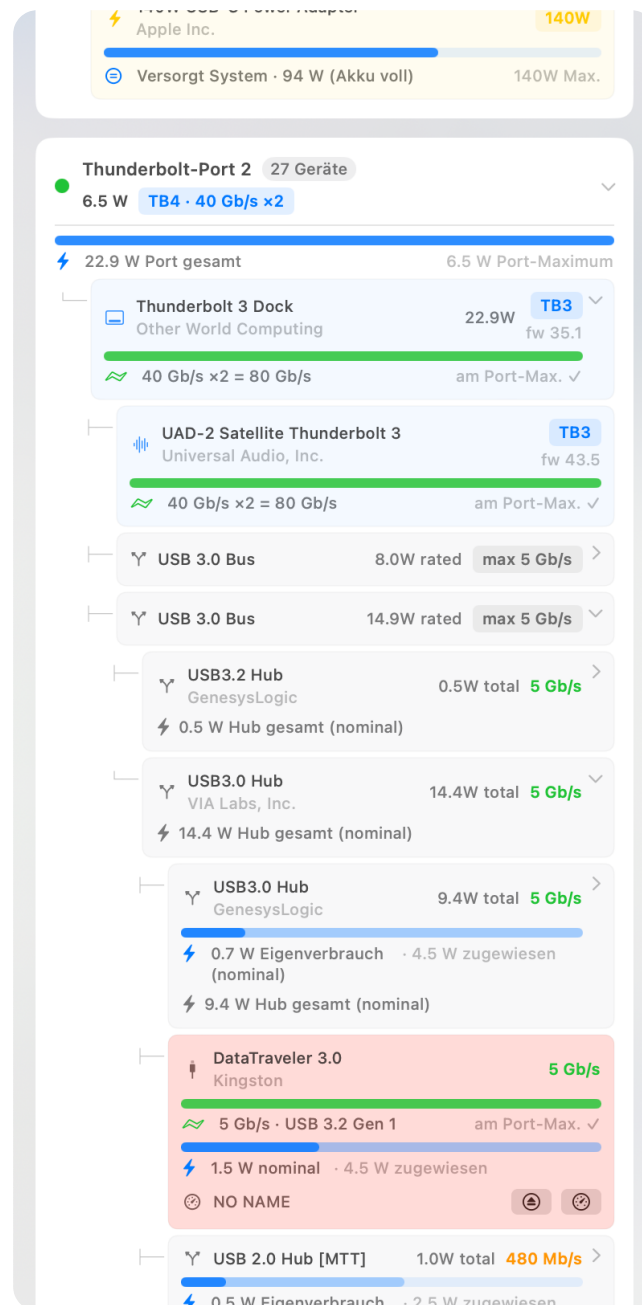


I typed “hub” and got eight results. Not a bug — just a little unsettling.

For the record: that screenshot is real. Eight separate hubs, each nested at a different depth, each helpfully labelled with exactly which dock and bus it’s hanging off. If you’ve ever tried to find one specific hub by clicking through a 27-device tree by hand, you now understand why this feature exists. If you haven’t had to do that yet — savor it.

Jump To It

Click a search result (or just press Return for the first match) and CableCheck does the annoying part for you: it expands every folder standing between you and your device, scrolls straight to it, and makes the row pulse gently for a few seconds — so you can't miss it, even in a tree this deep.



Five levels deep — port, bus, hub, hub, drive — and CableCheck still finds it and lights it up.

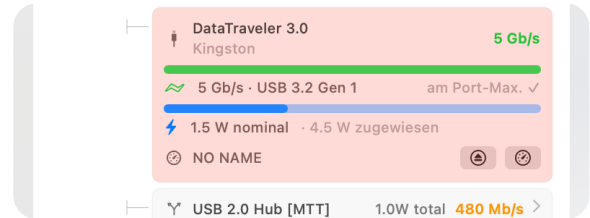
Eject & Speed Test

Any mounted drive — SSD, flash stick, memory card — gets two extra icons of its own.

The eject icon safely unmounts and spins down the whole physical disk, exactly like Finder's eject button, minus the trip to Finder.

The speedometer icon runs a real read/write test: it writes a temporary file, times it, reads it back, times that too, then deletes it. The numbers you get are genuine, measured throughput for that specific drive on that specific port and cable — not a marketing figure from a box.

No, it does not keep your files. It writes one small throwaway file, measures it, and cleans up after itself. CableCheck is nosy about your ports, not your data.



This particular flash drive is philosophically committed to being called “NO NAME.” CableCheck respects that life choice.

Hover For More

Almost every number, badge and icon in CableCheck is hiding a short explanation underneath it — you just have to hover.

Curious what “at port max” actually means, why a speed badge turned orange, or what a charger’s port label refers to? Rest your mouse over it for a moment and a tooltip explains it to you.

Pro tip: when a device is running slower than the port allows, look for a small info icon next to its speed badge. Clicking it reveals exactly what’s holding it back — usually the device itself, occasionally the cable, and once in a while a hub that has clearly seen better decades.

Colors, quickly

Green — running at the best speed this port and cable combination allows. Nothing to do here, go live your life.

Orange / amber — something in the chain is slower than the port could support. Not broken, just not maxed out.

Red pulse — not a warning, just CableCheck waving both arms saying “it’s this one, right here” after a search.

Frequently Asked, Occasionally Panicked Questions

Why does one single port show 27 devices?

Because hubs beget hubs, docks chain into other docks, and every audio interface secretly wants to be its own USB bus. This is normal for a “professional” desk setup. It is also, deep down, a cry for help.

I ejected my drive and it vanished from the list. Did I break something?

No — that’s exactly the point. The row disappears because the volume is safely ejected. You may now also unplug the actual physical cable, if you’re the sort of person who still does that step.

The eject button looks greyed out and sad.

A speed test is probably running on that drive right now. CableCheck won’t let you yank a disk out mid-benchmark.

Why is my SSD’s speed badge orange instead of green?

Something in the chain — the drive, the cable, or a hub of questionable vintage — can’t keep up with the port. Hover the info icon next to the badge; CableCheck will name names.

I searched for my device and nothing showed up.

Search matches device and manufacturer names, not port numbers or bus types. Try a shorter fragment — “trav” finds “DataTraveler” just fine, you don’t need the whole name.

Does this app fix cables?

No. It will, however, tell you with great confidence exactly which cable, port, or hub is responsible for your problems. Emotional support only; bring your own soldering iron.

ABOUT

Who Made This

CableCheck was written by me, **Kriz Flew** — [krizflew.ch](mailto:info@krizflew.ch), info@krizflew.ch. Bug reports, feature requests, and nice stories are always welcome by email. Bad vibes you're welcome to keep to yourself.

If CableCheck has saved you an afternoon of unplugging things at random, I wouldn't say no to a coffee's worth of thanks — scan the code below, or open [this PayPal link](#), to send something. Entirely optional, always appreciated — it also goes towards supporting my music: [Wolkenpark](#).



Scan to say thanks via PayPal.

That's the Whole App.

One menu bar icon, one tidy tree, a search bar that actually finds things, and two small icons that safely eject and honestly benchmark your drives. Go forth and stop guessing which cable is which.

Made with care in Switzerland, and genuine respect for anyone whose Thunderbolt port also has 27 devices hanging off it.