Apple Business Systems Technical Notes

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AWS22: Retrospect Error Codes

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This technical note discusses some error situations that can occur using Retrospect on the Apple Workgroup Server 95.

Under some circumstances, Retrospect may return an error in its log in the range of -27400. These errors are Unix system call errors being recognized by Retrospect. The general formula for the conversion is errno=retro_error-27400, so -27402 is the Unix error ENOENT, while -27404 is EINTR.

The -27402 will be seen when Retrospect comes across a file with a name longer than 31 characters, it logs it with an error number of -24702 and doesn't back up the file. While A/UX allows longer filenames, MacOS doesn't, and Retrospect, being a MacOS program, restricts itself to the MacOS API.

The workaround, when you run into a filename like this, is to rename the file to a shorter name. At this time, there is no intention of changing Retrospect to relax this limitation.

Under some rare circumstances, Retrospect will log a -27404 error which is the equivalent of the Unix EINTR (interrupted system call) error. This is because there is a system call in Retrospect that isn't expecting this error code and doesn't recover from it cleanly. This failure is rare and intermittent, and may only be seen when Retrospect is backing up data on a non-root, UFS formatted filesystem. This bug is fixed in release 2.1 of Retrospect .