Apple Business Systems
Technical Notes

®

AWS30: /etc/fstab Corruption

Written by : Chuq Von Rospach September, 1994

Overview

1. After a fresh install of A/UX 3.1 (from the full installer CD, not the Upgrade), /etc/fstab is an AppleDouble file, typed 'TEXT', creator 'iAUX' (the A/UX Installer's signature). Since the creator is not 'A/UX' or 'tefi' and the Finder cannot find the Installer App, the icon for /etc/fstab is the unknown (grey) text document. The system behaves correctly as long as /etc/fstab remains an AppleDouble file....

2. If /etc/fstab is then edited and saved with TeachText, TextEditor or any other Macintosh app, the A/UX file manager will convert it to AppleSingle format, which is not understood by fsck. This occurs because the "TBTRANSLATEUXONLY" environment variable is set (the default), and 'iAUX' is not a creator for which the file manager handles TEXT files specially (these are 'DOS ', 'tefi' (TextEditor) and 'A/UX').

The problem is not with TextEditor, but with the A/UX file manager's handling of the TEXT file type and creator. This behavior was introduced in A/UX 3.1.

Workaround

1. Open /etc/fstab with TextEditor (don't use TeachText!).
2. Select and copy the contents of /etc/fstab into the cut-and-paste buffer (Command-C).
3. Open a new TextEditor document (Command-N) with a unique name (not fstab!); be sure that the "Save Text Only" button is set in the dialog box (this is the default).
4. Paste the contents of /etc/fstab into the new document.
5. Save the new document and quit TextEditor.
6. From the Finder, drag /etc/fstab to the Trash and empty the Trash.
7. Rename the new document to /etc/fstab.

It won't work to just do a "Save As..."; TextEditor will preserve the incorrect file creator. The installer of the patch from A/UX 3.1 to A/UX 3.1.1 will also correct this problem if it hasn't already been corrected.