

It was pointed out during MacHack that the information presented on using BlockMove to move string data is incorrect. Further testing has shown that a highly optimized Pascal string copy has a break-even point with BlockMove when moving around 26 characters. This value varies slightly from machine to machine. It also depends on the existence of a cache since BlockMove will flush caches before the move is performed.

Short strings (such as file names) will generally be faster with a quick string copy, while long data strings will gain an advantage from BlockMove.

The rule of thumb:

☞ Use BlockMove to move string data around.

should be changed to:

☞ Use an optimized copy routine to move short strings around. Use BlockMove to move long string data around.