NOTE: This Technical Note has been retired. Please see the Technical Notes page for current documentation.

Technical Note NW09
RegisterName

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Introduction

The verify flag indicator byte (`verifyFlag`) of the AppleTalk `RegisterName` function should always be set `TRUE` in published code.

The AppleTalk chapter of *Inside Macintosh* , Volume II-322, in describing the `RegisterName` function, states:

"If verifyFlag is TRUE, RegisterName checks on the network to see if the name is already in use, and returns a result code of nbpDuplicate if so."

Note that `verifyFlag` should **always** be `TRUE` in published code. The design of the Name Binding Protocol (NBP) requires that an entity name be unique. The way `RegisterName` ensures this uniqueness is by broadcasting a lookup request for the registered name. If any entity responds, then `RegisterName` knows that the name would not be unique and returns an error. Some developers, in anticipating the time delay involved in broadcasting a lookup request and waiting for a response, have opted to set `verifyFlag` to `FALSE`, not realizing the potential danger in doing so.

Apple provides `verifyFlag` for experimental or developmental purposes, such as narrowing down a problem in registering a name on a network. Always make sure that code which ships has `verifyFlag` set to `TRUE`.

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References

Inside Macintosh , Volume II-261, The AppleTalk Manager

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