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Technical Note TB19

OpenRFPPerm: What your mother never told you

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This note corrects an error in the description of the Resource Manager routine `OpenRFPPerm` found in *Inside Macintosh Volume IV*

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Introduction

On page IV-17 in the Resource Manager chapter of *Inside Macintosh Volume IV* it states,

"OpenRFPPerm, like OpenResFile, will not open the specified file twice; it simply returns the reference number already assigned to the file. In other words, OpenRFPPerm cannot be used to open a second access path to a resource file..."

This statement is incorrect. OpenRFPPerm behaves exactly as described if an application attempts to open a second access path, **with write access**, to a resource file without MultiFinder. With MultiFinder, however, if the second attempt comes from a different application than the one that originally opened the file OpenRFPPerm **will not** return the reference number already assigned to the file, instead it will return -1 and ResError will be set to opWrErr (-49). In fact in similar circumstances with MultiFinder, OpenResFile behaves the same way, returning -1 and setting ResError to -49.

Note, however, that with or without MultiFinder, OpenRFPPerm **will** create multiple, unique, read-only access paths to a resource file. Using this feature is not safe and should be avoided since if a resource file is opened twice, once with read-write permission and once with read-only permission then two copies of the resource map will exist in memory. If one of the resources in the file is changed and written to disk then the two maps will become inconsistent and the second access path will see what it thinks is a trashed resource file.

If you must use this technique for read-only access, only call OpenRFPPerm when your application is ready to read information from the file and close the file immediately afterwards. Otherwise you risk having the resource file change out from under your application.

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The Resource Manager

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