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Technical Note TB09

Finder Flags

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This Technote updates the meanings of several of the bits which changed in System 7 and System 7 Pro.

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Introduction

The Finder keeps and uses a series of file information flags for each file. These flags are located in the `fdFlags` field (a word at offset \$28 into an `HParamBlockRec`) of the `ioFlFndrInfo` record of a parameter block. For directories, the flags are located in the `frFlags` field of the `ioDrUsrWds` record of a parameter block (also offset \$28). They may change with newer versions of the Finder. Finder 7.1.1 assigns the following meanings to the flags:

| Bit | Meaning |
|-----|---|
| 0 | Reserved in System 7; set to 0. (previously set if file/folder is on the desktop) |
| 1 | Color information. |
| 2 | Color information. |
| 3 | Color information. |
| 4 | Reserved in System 7; set to 0. (previously never <code>SwitchLaunch</code> prior to System 7) |
| 5 | Reserved in System 7; set to 0. (previously always <code>SwitchLaunch</code> prior to System 7) |
| 6 | <code>isShared</code> bit. Set if file is a shareable application. Set to 0 for non-applications. |
| 7 | <code>hasNoINITs</code> bit. Set if the file contains no 'INIT' resources; set to 0. Reserved for directories; set to 0. |
| 8 | <code>hasBeenInitd</code> bit. Set once the Finder has recorded information from the file's bundle resource into the desktop database and given the file or folder a position on the desktop. Clear for newly created files. |
| 9 | <code>isLetter</code> bit. Set if the file is an AOCe letter under System 7 Pro and later. Formerly the <code>Changed</code> bit. Set to 0 for non-letters. |
| 10 | <code>hasCustomIcon</code> bit. Set if the file or folder has a custom icon. (previously the <code>Busy</code> bit prior to System 7) |
| 11 | <code>isStationery</code> bit. Set if the file is a stationery pad under System 7 and later. Reserved for directories, in which case set to 0. (previously <code>NoCopy</code> or <code>BOZO</code> bit, not used in 5.0 and later) |
| 12 | <code>nameLocked</code> bit. If set, the file or directory can't be renamed from the Finder and the icon can't be changed. (previously called the <code>System</code> bit) |
| 13 | <code>hasBundle</code> bit. The file contains a bundle resource. Reserved for directories, in which case set to 0 |
| 14 | <code>invisible</code> bit. The file or directory is invisible from the Finder and from the Standard File dialogs. |
| 15 | <code>isAlias</code> bit. The file is an alias file. Reserved for directories- in which case set to 0. (previously the <code>Locked</code> bit prior to System 7) |

Note:
The MacBinary II specification instructs downloading applications to clear bits 0, 1, 8, 9, and 10 when downloading a file in MacBinary II format. Downloading applications should actually clear only bits 0 and 8, (the former `onDesk` bit, and the `hasBeenInitd` bit). Clearing bits 1, 9, or 10 will result in the file being interpreted incorrectly, since bit 1 is now used to store color information, bit 9 tells the system if the file is a letter, and bit 10 informs the Finder if the file has a custom icon.

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References

Inside Macintosh, Macintosh Toolbox Essentials

Inside Macintosh, Volume VI, The Finder Interface

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