

Technical Note TE24

TextEdit Record Size Limitations Revisited

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This Technical Note describes another limit on the length of a TextEdit record that was previously undocumented.

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Introduction

The TextEdit chapters in *Inside Macintosh* document the 32K character limit on a TextEdit record length. They do not, however, discuss the more subtle constraint on the size of the `destRect`. By definition, the `destRect` uses integer values for the top-left and bottom-right boundary points. It is possible to have values too large for the `destRect` without reaching the `teLength` limit.

The `nLines` field gives the number of lines in the edit record, and the `lineHeight` field specifies the vertical distance from the ascent line from one line of text to the ascent line of the next line. In styled TextEdit, the `lineHeight` may vary for each line depending on the font and font size. These values are entries in the `lineHeight` table.



Figure 1. LineHeight

The product of the `lineHeight` (or the largest `lineHeight` value in styled TextEdit) and `nLines` gives a good approximation, in pixels, of the vertical dimension of the `destRect` of the `TERec` used. If this value is greater than 32,768, then unpredictable and erratic behavior may result.

For example:

2,400 lines of Chicago 12 point yields `nLines` = 2,400 and `lineHeight` = 16.

`nLines * lineHeight` = 2400 * 16 = 38,400. This is above the 32K limit.

1,200 lines of Times 24 point yields `nLines` = 1,200 and `lineHeight` = 30.

`nLines * lineHeight` = 1200 * 30 = 36,000. This is above the 32K limit.

In both of the examples above, the number of characters in the edit record was less than 32,768.

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Check All Constraints

Both `teLength` and the size of the `destRect` must be under the 32K limit. You can compute an approximate vertical

height of the `destRect` by finding the product of `nLines` and `lineHeight` (or the largest `lineHeight` value in styled TextEdit).

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References

Inside Macintosh , Volumes I-371 & V-259, TextEdit

M.OV.[ManagerAbuse](#)

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