

New Technical Notes

Macintosh



Developer Support

WorldWide Overview Q&As

Macintosh Overview

M.OV.Worldwide.Q&As

Revised by: Developer Support Center

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Written by: Developer Support Center

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This Technical Note contains a collection of Q&As relating to a specific topic—questions you've sent the Developer Support Center (DSC) along with answers from the DSC engineers. While DSC engineers have checked the Q&A content for accuracy, the Q&A Technical Notes don't have the editing and organization of other Technical Notes. The Q&A function is to get new technical information and updates to you quickly, saving the polish for when the information migrates into reference manuals.

Q&As are now included with Technical Notes to make access to technical updates easier for you. If you have comments or suggestions about Q&A content or distribution, please let us know by sending an AppleLink to DEVFEEDBACK. Apple Partners may send technical questions about Q&A content to DEVSUPPORT for resolution.

New Q&As and Q&As revised this month are marked with a bar in the side margin.

12 Golden Rules of worldwide design

Written: 3/1/91

Last reviewed: 4/1/91

I want my product to be usable around the world. Do you have a quick reference list of what I need to do so my Macintosh product can be localized easily?

Here's a summary list from Apple's International Software Support group:

- (1) All text (including characters like '...') seen by the user must be in resources so they can be translated easily into other languages.
- (2) Remember, characters can be 1 or 2 bytes. Be careful of assuming character lengths.
- (3) Word order should be easy to change. Watch out for those strCat calls! Use ParamText.
- (4) All graphics should be culturally neutral; obtain country feedback.
- (5) All sorting and date, time, number formatting information should be coming from the international resources.
- (6) All keyboard information should be coming from the system file via the keyboard

resources.

- (7) If you create a custom resource that contains text, you must provide a ResEdit TMPL or editor to ensure localizability.
- (8) All text handling should be accomplished using TextEdit and/or the Script Manager.
- (9) Make no assumptions about the character set. Use the International Utilities and Script Manager routines to find out information about a character.

(10) Keep in mind the different standards used around the world, such as for character sets, paper sizes, and ergonomics.

(11) HyperCard stack developers: The convention for indicating text in scripts which needs to be localized is to add a comment "--Δ" and an explanation.

(Δ=option j)

(12) Flexibility! Design in flexibility so your product can be localized in many different ways. For example, go ahead and set a default if you must (for example, a default keyboard layout), but allow the user to select other options if they are available.

International documents reference list

Written: 3/1/91

Last reviewed: 4/1/91

Human Interface Guidelines

Inside Macintosh:

"International Utilities," Inside Macintosh, Volume I

"Script Manager" and "International Utilities," Volume V

"Worldwide Software Overview," Volume VI

Technical Notes:

Macintosh Technical Note "Don't Depend of Register A5 Within Trap Patches"

Macintosh Technical Note "Fond of FONDS"

Macintosh Technical Note "Using KanjiTalk"

Macintosh Technical Note "Changes in International Utilities and Resources"

Macintosh Technical Note "Key Mapping"

Macintosh Technical Note "Accessing the Script Manager Print Action Routine"

Macintosh Technical Note "Modifying the Standard String Comparison"

Macintosh Technical Note "How to Construct Word-Break Tables"

Macintosh Technical Note "TextEdit Record Size Limitations Revisited"

Macintosh Technical Note "Script Manager's Pixel2Char Routine"

Macintosh Technical Note "Fonts and the Script Manager"

Macintosh Technical Note "Script Manager Variables"

Macintosh Technical Note "International Cancelling"

Macintosh Technical Note "Script Manager 2.0 Date & Time Problems"

Software Development for International Markets (#A27G0016)

Worldwide Development: Guide to System Software (#M7047/A)

Script System Software and associated User Notes

Japanese Interface System (KanjiTalk)

Arabic Interface System

Hebrew Interface System

Chinese Interface System (HanziTalk)

Korean Interface System (HanguTalk)

HyperCard Stack Design Guidelines

You may also want to check out:

TextEdit Tech Notes

International VBL timing on the Macintosh

Written: 3/9/90

Last reviewed: 12/17/90

Do VBL tasks execute at 50 Hz in Europe?

—

Televisions use AC line frequency to determine the vertical retrace interval. The Macintosh does not. All Macintosh systems have their own internal 60.15 Hz clock for timing VBL tasks, regardless of whether that clock is actually connected to video circuitry. Tasks installed by `_VInstall` are always timed by this 60.15 Hz clock. Slotted Macintosh systems may have additional frequencies determined by the installed video card. Tasks installed by `_SlotVInstall` are timed by these card-specific clocks. In any case, VBL task frequency is not determined by the location of your power source.

Human interface for wildcards and boolean operators

Written: 6/11/91

Last reviewed: 8/1/92

Is there a universally recognized wildcard character for the Macintosh (like the `*` in the MS-DOS world)? Furthermore, for boolean logic, should my application accept Pascal syntax (such as `.NOT.`, `.AND.`, `.OR.`), C syntax (such as `!`, `&&`, `||`), or still another convention? My users are not programming gurus.

—

First, see if there's a friendlier way to implement the wildcard's function. Take a look at System 7 Finder's "Find..." menu item, for example. If you find wildcard use is necessary, `*` is universally common, though for file searching any character other than `.` can be used in an HFS filename.

As for boolean operators, nonprogrammers prefer a syntax that matches English as closely as possible, so `AND`, `OR`, and `NOT` are better than their C counterparts. However, user testing indicates that the most intuitive, user-friendly way to put boolean search criteria on a command line is to bring up a dialog with pop-up menus used to form an English sentence describing the search (like System 7's "Find..."). If you can make something like this work for your application, your nontechnical users will love you.