

Size Limitations

Other than the amount of space you have on your hard drive (to hold the linkset) and the amount of memory you have devoted to LinksWare (to hold the program and some lists) there is no practical limit to the number of links made. There is a limit, but at 51.4 million files, it's too high to worry about unless you are the Library of Congress (and if you are, please call me!) There is a maximum number of unique words around 500 million, which is more than all the languages on earth, so don't worry about this either.

More realistically, LinksWare comes configured to handle about 12,000 unique words (not links, different words) and slightly over 1,600 different files. Should you exceed this amount, a "ReSize" notice will appear. You should then close all open files and select "Resize" from the Utilities menu, and select a name for the new file. (You will not find this item unless you have run out of room. Most people will never see it...) LinksWare will then first make a safety copy of your data file, and then expand either the word or file list section, as needed. It will add room for about 6000 more words or 800 more files, as appropriate.

This is a tricky operation, and I suggest that you keep an eye on the size of your linkset (via the 'Current Set Stats...' menu item.) Remember, the more links you have established, the more valuable is your linkset. Please remember to keep a backup copy!

(This does not indicate that I'm not confident about the routines: they have been tested; it is just plain prudent...)

A note about linking phrases

Links to individual words are made to real words, not to screen positions or nor text offsets. This means that you can still edit the document, and the links will remain valid. If you linked the word 'elephant' then clicking on it anywhere it appears will retrieve the linked file.

Phrases are a different critter however. They are stored as text offsets. This means that if you edit the document, the phrase will no longer be properly linked! For example if the phrase began at the 40th character, and you later removed the first 10 characters in the document, then the phrase would be off by ten characters.

Note that this applies to the Bind command as well. LinksWare records the character number of the first line on the screen when you select the Bind command. Adding or deleting text will effect the retrieval here as well.

Please use phrase linking and Binding only on files you are finished editing, or files from read-only media such as CD-ROM. Also note that it takes slightly longer to retrieve a link from a phrase than from a linked word.

Remember, with words or phrases, the program will only respond to words which are at least of the minimum size you specified in the preferences dialog. (See page 16.) Thus, if you linked the phrase "George was in the know." and the minimum word size was four (the default) only 'George' and 'know' will retrieve the linked file.

In the case where a word is linked in a file, and that same word also appears within a phrase, and is selected to activate that phrase, the phrase links will not appear: the word-link will. Word links take precedence over phrase links.

Here's a tip: the hyphen/minus sign (-) can be used to connect together two or more words so that they will be highlighted together (and thus retrieved as a single word.) For example: this-word. For a cleaner appearance, and if your word-processor supports it, you can also use 'sticky-spacing', the option-space keys.

Version 3.0 and AppleScript

With version 3.0, System 7 users can link to AppleScript compiled files. These files can perform any function that is permitted with the other applications you own. For example, an AppleScript savvy spreadsheet could be instructed to open up a certain sheet, include some new numbers and then produce a graph. You can now trigger that action by linking to the script file. Then, simply clicking on a word will trigger the creation of that entire sequence of actions.

TIPS AND HINTS

XTND and file translators

A word about XTND and the "Save As..." features of various word-processors. When you choose "Save As..." in your favorite word processor, and select a different file type (ie saving a file as MacWrite® from within Microsoft Word®), you may or may not be actually creating a true MacWrite file. This depends upon how well the host program did in "faking" another program's files. Additionally, some features may not be supported within the other format, or the host program may neglect to save the appropriate change. (For example, Word style-sheet commands to uppercase text are not save out in MacWrite format: the text appears as lower-case.)

On the other hand, some exported types are better than others, depending upon your word processor. You may find that the native document is read very well by LinksWare, or you may discover that some exported type maintains the styling better. You'll have to experiment to discover which you like best.

(If you want to see this in action, try saving out a document from Microsoft Word in some other format, say MacWrite. Then have Word read it back in. You'll find that the two versions do not match.)

The problem of translating and importing documents is not unique to LinksWare: it has been plaguing the industry for years.

This version of LinksWare (3.0) has made every effort to properly import styled word-processor documents. Unfortunately, some information used internally (such as the example above) is simply never exported in the first place, so there will be minor variations between what you see in the host program, and what you see in LinksWare. This is just the nature of file translation.

Given the fact that LinksWare is not a word-processor, we believe that we have done the best possible job, under these translation-circumstances.

Here's a hint: if you will be creating documents just for LinksWare, avoid the use of exotic formats and style sheets. Simple tabs import most accurately.

Additionally, when you are creating .LW (Save as formatted...) files, remember that you must add any self referring links within the .LW file itself. (If you add them within the host document, then the .LW will retrieve the host instead of jumping to a new location in itself.

My hint for LinksWare publishing: if you will be using documents created by your word-processor, but intend to ultimately publish a completed linkset using .LW files, here's how I suggest you do it.

Load the files into LinksWare, and then add the links as necessary. That is, work from the .LW file from

the start, not from the word-processor file. This has the advantage that the file will load considerably faster. Remember though: do not do a Show Links on the file until you are done adding links! (If you do, you will save the file with the links styled. Then when you add another link, and do a show links, you'll end up with a toggling of some links on and off.)

LinksWare 3.0 can import graphics embedded within documents. Once again, however, remember that this all has to go through the XTND translator. These translators will inform LinksWare that a picture is to be loaded, but they will not say much more than that. Therefore, do not format documents with wrap-around text and other fancy graphic/text combinations.

For best results, embedded graphics should simply be placed between paragraphs.

In version 3.0, embedded graphics are not linkable. (You cannot draw out a rectangle and link to another document.) Naturally, you can link TO them however (via the "Bind" command). And of course regular graphics files can still be linked.

However, here is a sneaky technique using Microsoft Word to achieve an effect similar to 'buttons'.

Once you embed a graphic in Word, you cannot add text in front of it on the same line: word forces the text above the graphic. However, LinksWare will treat that text as appearing "behind" the graphic. So: using Word, embed the graphic, then go to that line and through the judicious use of tabs, insert the words you want to use as "buttons". Then modify the embedded graphic so as to draw buttons with the same word over the exact area the words will appear. (Yes this is inconvenient, and takes a little practice, but once you done it, it becomes quite simple.)

Using this technique, the fake (ne graphic) buttons can be clicked on. What actually happens is that the hidden text word beneath the graphic is selected, and the link made or retrieved. This has the added bonus of the 'button words' appearing in the word menu.

(Naturally, you can link a word to an external graphic file, and in that file, make all the graphics links you wish.)

When designing a document for LinksWare use, remember to place your word-processor into WYSIWYG or "page layout" mode. LinksWare displays documents as they would appear if printed, not as they appear in your word-processor's text-edit mode.

If your word-processor does not have a "page layout" mode, see if it has a "Print Preview" command. (Relax, it is a common mistake to format documents in, say Microsoft Word, forgetting to turn on "page layout" mode.)

One of the most obvious oversights of XTND is that it does not pass through the width of the document itself. It does pass the left and right margins. Unfortunately this requires that LinksWare establish an arbitrary document width. It is set at 8 1/2 inches: 614 pixels. If you have prepared a document for some other width, it will not appear properly formatted when displayed by LinksWare. To correct this, you'll need to save the document from within your word-processor as if it were using the standard paper width.

[Optional \(and other\) Secrets](#)

At the request of users: LinksWare can wrap TEXT files to the size of the window automatically. Word processor files, on the other hand, because of their formatting, can not be resized (else what's the point of formatting?) If you wish to have text files reflow the text to the new window size, hold down the option key as you release the mousebutton after resizing a window.

Also at the users request: people with large monitors objected to the window opening full size. So, now they will open to screen size or 640 pixels wide, whichever is appropriate. If you want to open a document larger than 640, and you have a large monitor, you can do so by holding down the option key when opening the document.

Due to the many varied internal formats of word-processor files, it is not always possible to maintain picture-perfect reproductions of tabbed information. The preferences box contains a choice for "Mono-spaced font" which may help in some cases.

Should you find that all your links seem to be missing, simply close your open windows, and select "Restore" from the utilities menu. This will update all the numbers in the list by checking the full paths to the linked files.

After showing links in a graphic file, to turn off the link-display, hit any of these keys (or press the mouse button):

option

control

shift

spacebar

(Generally, these are the keys on the bottom of the keyboard proper...)

To simulate a linked phrase (for speed) , simply link all the words in the phrase to the same file, or use the hyphen-minus sign, as noted above.

Remember, that if you do not have a translator for a particular program-file you want LinksWare™ to read, there is a very good chance that the program is able to save the file in a format which LinksWare™ can read. Choose "Save As..." in the program which creates the file (ie Excel™) and see if you have the option to save the file in different formats. Select a format for which you have a translator.

Additionally, the manufacturer of your program may well have an XTND translator available. Call their technical support line to see if that is so.

LinksWare™ can read TEXT, PICT, AIFF & AIFC (sound), PNTG, QuickTime movies and compiled AppleScripts without the use of any translators.

Some (few) text processors (and other Mac programs) use the file-type "TEXT" for files which do not, in fact, conform to the rules of that type of file. In these cases, LinksWare may display unusual characters, or at the very least fail to provide an exact duplicate of the formatting of the original program.

Unfortunately, there is nothing we can do about this. (You might suggest to the authors of such programs that they "obey the rules".)

There is a BIG DIFFERENCE between "Open Existing Set..." and "Install Link Set".

INSTALL IS **ONLY ONLY ONLY** FOR sharing files! It **REQUIRES** that the files are in one folder, **ALONG WITH** the LinkSet. When you Install it, the program sets the paths to all the files, **ASSUMING THAT THEY ARE ALL IN THE SAME FOLDER** and not in any sub-folders.

ShowLinks (in the body of the text) is a toggled function. The first time you select it, links will be shown. The second time, they are turned off throughout the document. Thus, if you are showing links only on the screen area, then scroll to where there are no links, Show Links will appear to have not acted. Actually, you have deselected Show Links, and are removing the display (which you now cannot see, since you have scrolled). Choosing Show Links again will display the links in your new scrolled position. You can see if the Show Links function is active by view the Links menu. A check-mark will precede the Show Links command if Show Links is active.

If you work at it hard enough, you will eventually be able to confuse the ShowLinks function. Should you end up with various links toggling on and off as you select ShowLink, just close and re-open the window. (This should be a rare occurrence however.)

In low memory conditions, the Show Links command may do nothing. This is a safety feature to prevent memory conflicts. You can still retrieve the linked words through the "Words" menu. To gain more memory for the program, simply close any open windows. If you still encounter the problem, see "Caveats" (below) for how to adjust the program's available memory.

To Return to the site of your last link (within the same document) press,
you guessed it...!
the
Return key!

A simple Find command can be invoked in text documents. Command F brings up the dialog box and Command G will continue the find. Finds begin at the top line on the screen and will wrap around continuously. (You can do a Find on a linked word and the word will be highlighted without retrieving the link. To actually retrieve the link, simply double-click on the word as usual.)

CAVEATS _____

If you experience an out-of-memory error using LinksWare™, particularly with QuickTime, you may need to adjust the amount of memory available to the program. This is done from the desktop. The program must not be running. Highlight the LinksWare™ icon by clicking on it once. Then select "Get Info..." from the File menu. In the bottom right corner of the resulting information box will be a tiny box with a number in it: probably 1024. Increase this number by one or two hundred and then press return. Then click in the go-away box; return to the desktop and re-launch LinksWare™. This should have cured the problem. If not then try again.

QuickTime is a new technology. It has recently undergone several changes, but you may encounter QuickTime movies which are not properly recorded. Generally, these will be older experimental movies. Naturally, we cannot be responsible for QuickTime files which are not correct, just as we can assume no responsibility for other types of files which may have been improperly saved, altered or damaged. LinksWare™ successfully opens properly formatted files for which the correct translator exists in your system:claris folder or which LinksWare™ can open in "native mode."

Over the years, a number of translators have been developed for XTND. Some of these do not work entirely properly. For example, an early version of the XTND Microsoft Word™ translator fails to release some of the memory it uses, with the result that, in a long LinksWare™ session, you may eventually run out of memory. This is also true of the current version of the MacWrite translator. There are other problems with other translators. Also be sure that you are using version 1.3.6 or later of the XTND system. (Versions 1.2 and 1.3.2 will crash.)

We have done our best to try to compensate for these individual errors within LinksWare™, but without crippling our program for those translators which do work properly.

The translators we have licensed and shipped with LinksWare™ work correctly, but we cannot be responsible for the operation of LinksWare™ with other translators you may have acquired elsewhere.

WE MAY BE REACHED ELECTRONICALLY for help, gripes or just plain fun.
Our electronic address is:

LINKSWARE

on America OnLine (via internet : linksware@aol.com) and AppleLink
and Valleau@delphi.com on the internet

SOURCES OF ADDITIONAL TRANSLATORS.

The DataViz Corporation
35 Corporate Drive
Trumbull, CT 06611
(203) 268-0030 fax (203) 268-4345
includes translators for IBM compatible files

Products which come with translators

On Location
GreatWorks
ClarisWorks
...most Claris products

My thanks for your support.

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Thank you.
I hope you enjoy using LinksWare™.

LinksWare is a tiny company that depends a lot upon word of mouth. If you like the product, please tell others; if you don't, then please tell me.