

Apple File Exchange Intro

Quick Summary

Apple File Exchange is a free utility program, included with Macintosh system software, that allows the Mac user to move the **contents** from a DOS or Apple II (ProDos) disk to the desktop (or a lower level folder) It is used with Apple's SuperDrive floppy drive (SE30 and later models of the Mac.) The Apple File Exchange interface (the "look" of the application's windows and menus) has a large window containing two window panels for the "from" and "to" locations. It's a slow process due to the number of steps in translation.

There are commercial applications to mount a DOS floppy itself on the desktop allowing direct access to disk files. If you work with DOS-to-Mac regularly consider these programs for the speed gains. (Apple's PC Exchange, Dayna's DOS Mounter and Insignia's Access PC.)

I'll use examples to explain how to use Apple File Exchange to format a DOS disk, read a DOS disk and transfer its files for use in a compatible Mac application. I'll use Pascal and WordPerfect files as examples. Also, I include a quick tour for surviving on a DOS machine.

Tips on working with two ,or more, applications in System 7

In the top right of the Mac menu bar is the **application menu** . The Mac desktop, also called the **Finder**, is shown as active by a little Mac icon. Active applications have their own icons.

System 7 allows you to have several applications open at the same time allowing you to switch between them. You may want to have this document available as you work with **Apple File Exchange**. You can print it out or choose **Hide <<name of application>>**, if working from the **Finder**. It will show **At Ease** if you launched the application from At Ease. You can then find and open Apple File Exchange and both will be running. You can use this application menu to switch back and forth.

Using Apple File Exchange

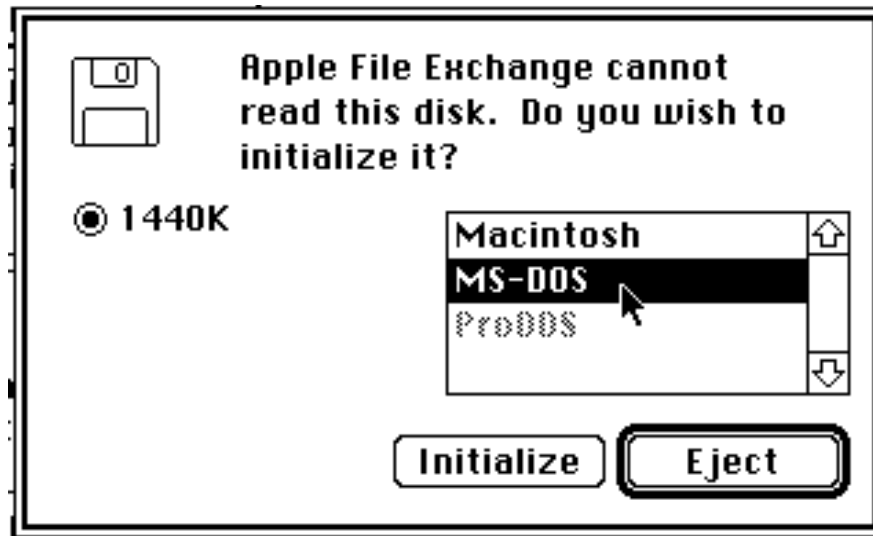
If you insert a DOS disk or a new, blank disk into the Mac the following Alert box will appear:



Non-Mac disk Alert box.

If you want to use this disk as a Mac disk choose **Initialize**. This will set up a Macintosh file directory. If you know it contains DOS files or want to use it on a DOS machine choose **Eject**. (Another option is that it is a Mac disk with problems. Eject it and use recovery utilities or see a friend with utilities to regain your data before copying the files to a newly formatted disk.)

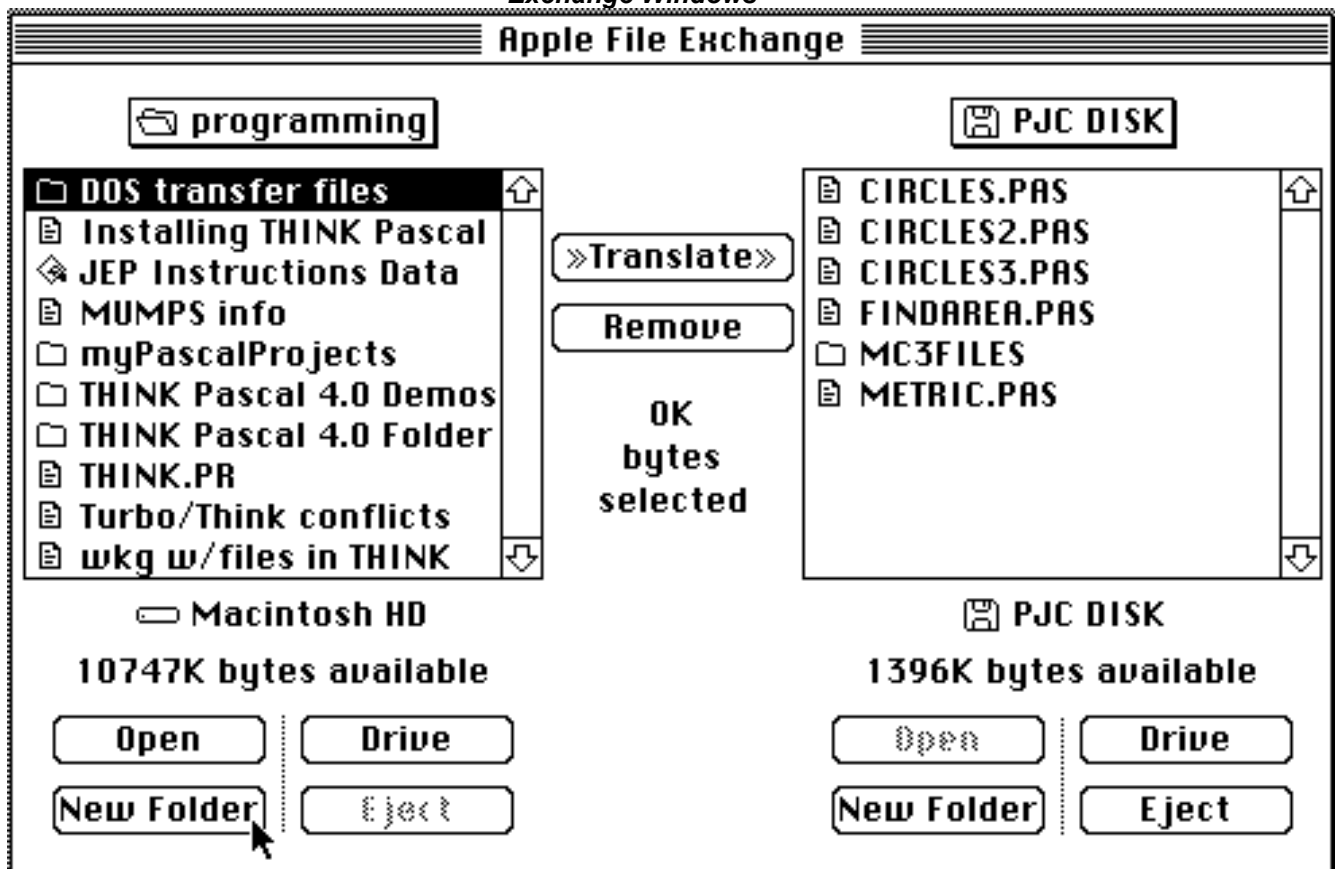
If it is a DOS disk or you want to format it for use in a PC launch Apple File Exchange and then insert the disk. If it is blank you will be greeted with the following screen:



Blank disk Alert box.

Notice that you have the option of formatting it as a DOS disk. I have selected that choice above. I would then select the **Initialize** button to format it. Follow the DOS rules when naming your disk. Eleven characters (including spaces) for a disk name, eight for a directory name and eight plus period and three letter extension for files.(Ex: PJC DISK—MC3FILES—CIRCLE.PAS)

Working in the Apple File Exchange Windows



Main AFE window with source drive and destination drive windows.

Moving Files

Once you have a formatted DOS disk you can insert it after launching Apple File Exchange. It will appear in AFE's main window. Shown here is my DOS disk, *PJC DISK*, with Pascal files and a subdirectory *MC3FILES* (shown here as a folder). *Programming* is a folder on my hard drive *Macintosh HD*. I have created a new folder called *DOS transfer files* for incoming and outgoing files. (Note the **New Folder** button.)

I moved the DOS files to the subdirectory MC3FILES by first moving the files to the DOS transfer folder on my hard drive. I selected that folder by clicking on the **Open** button below the window. I then moved the files from floppy window after highlighting by shift-selecting and using the **Translate** button. I then deleted the files showing at the same level as the MC3FILES directory on the DOS floppy using the **Remove** button. I then selected and opened the MC3FILES folder and moved the files residing in the transfer folder to that window with **Translate**. (These actions would leave only the name MC3FILES in the right window shown above the next time you insert your disk.)

Opening And Working With Translated DOS files

I can use the translated DOS files by opening a compatible application, THINK Pascal, and opening a file from the *DOS transfer files* folder. In THINK Pascal the steps would be: 1)Launch THINK Pascal, 2) Choose the radio button **Instant Project**, name the new project and press the **New** button, 3)choose **Add File...** from the **Project** menu selecting the transferred file and 4)select the project window (ends in '.') and highlight the name of the template window (ends in '.p') and select **Remove** in the **Project** menu. The project is now ready to Check Syntax, Compile, Run, etc.

Going From Mac to DOS

As a matter of course I generally choose **Remove Objects** (object code) in the **Project** menu before I close a project or quit the program. This results in smaller files (source code only) on my hard disk. After quitting I return to my programming folder where I have the items listed by name (**View** menu in **Finder**.) If I hold the Option key and drag the source code file (ends in '.p') to the DOS transfer files folder it will add a copy of that file to the folder without the word "copy" after the name which is what you get from **Duplicate** in the **File** menu. After checking for the 8-character DOS name limitation I can open AFE and insert my DOS disk and open the MC3FILES folder and translate it. I can then quit AFE and head to class.

What About Other File Types?

If you are moving a word processing file, for example, you need to use **Save As...** in the **File** menu of that application and select a compatible PC format in the drop down menu under the listing window. As an example I have saved the file you are reading in **WordPerfect PC 4.2** format. I abbreviated the name to DOS convention and I'm ready to move PFLEXCH.WP with Apple File Exchange to a DOS floppy.

Conclusion

I hope you have found this information useful. There are other features of Apple File Exchange that you can read about choosing **About Apple File Exchange** in the Apple menu. You can then highlight a topic you want to explore in the list and select the **About** button on the right to learn more. I have used the default translations each time I have used it.