New Technical Notes

Macintosh

⬜ ®

Developer Support

Desktop Manager Q&As
Toolbox

Revised by: Developer Support Center   May 1993
Written by: Developer Support Center   October 1990

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 this month:
Macintosh Desktop Manager vs desktop file
Removing icon data from Macintosh Desktop database or file

Macintosh Desktop Manager vs desktop file
Date Written: 12/11/92
Last reviewed: 3/1/93

What are the advantages of the Desktop Manager's desktop database over the Desktop file? *Inside Macintosh* simply states that the desktop database can hold more icons than the Desktop file.

___

The advantages of the Desktop Manager over the Desktop file are:

• There's a documented interface for the Desktop Manager functions that developers can use.
• The Desktop Manager can be used on shared volumes. (The Desktop file, since it's simply a resource file, can allow write access to only one user or process; it can't be shared. Under MultiFinder, that process is the Finder.)
• The Desktop Manager functions can be implemented by an external file system in the most

efficient way possible for that particular file system.

• The Desktop Manager doesn't have the file size limitations imposed by the Resource Manager (2727 resources and approximately 16 MB of resource data).

Removing icon data from Macintosh Desktop database or file
Date Written: 12/11/92
Last reviewed: 3/1/93

In what circumstances does the Finder remove icons from the Desktop file? The Desktop file my external file system creates for the Finder never seems to shrink, even when applications are removed from my remote volume.

___

With both the Desktop file and the Desktop Manager, icon data isn't removed from the database unless the Desktop database or file is rebuilt from scratch. That's because the Finder (and file system for that matter) has no way of being notified when the last file of a given creator and type is removed from a volume. If the Finder removes an application (a file with type APPL), then the Finder attempts to remove the application mapping information for that copy of the application from the Desktop database or file.

System 6 versus System 7 Desktop Manager
Date Written: 8/30/91
Last reviewed: 8/1/92

If the Desktop Manager (the version that comes with AppleShare) is installed under System 6.0.x, is it backward-compatible that of System 7.0?

___

The Desktop Manager in System 7 is completely backward-compatible with that of System 6.0.x. The System 7 version has been highly optimized, and is more robust than the original.

Determining if Macintosh Desktop Manager is present
Date Written: 3/7/91
Last reviewed: 8/1/92

How does one determine if the Macintosh Desktop Manager is available? I know under System 7.0 it's always available, but how about under 6.0?

___

The best method for determining whether the Desktop Manager is available or not is to use PBGetVolParms on your boot volume and check bit 12 of the vMAttrib field. See page 25-37 of *Inside Macintosh* Volume VI for additional information on PBGetVolParams.