Macintosh®

Adobe℠ Customer Services

Dealing with INIT Conflicts

The term INIT generally refers to a small program that loads automatically when you start up your Macintosh®. INITs usually add functionality to the system or are necessary for certain hardware additions. They include control panel devices (cdevs), extensions, and start-up documents. Although INITs have enhanced our Macintoshes, they can cause conflicts or become corrupt. This may result in system crashes or unexpected behavior within applications. When you experience such a problem, it is a good idea to test your Macintosh without the INITs being active. Either turn your INITs off or remove non-Apple® INITs and cdevs from the System Folder.

To disable INITs with System 7™:
1 Hold down the Shift key while restarting your computer to disable all INITs. No icons should flash across the bottom of your screen as the computer starts up. If you must leave some INITs active to test the problem, use an INIT management utility such as Apple's Extension Manager (although this too is an INIT).

Note: If you have a non-Apple keyboard, holding down the shift key may not disable your INITs. In this case, you will need to remove your INITs.

To remove INITs with System 7:
1 Open your System Folder by double-clicking it.

2 Choose Name from the View menu at the top of your screen.

3 Create a new folder.

4 Drag all non-Apple extensions and control panel documents from your Extensions and Control Panel folders, as well as any loose documents in your System Folder, to the new folder, except those that are necessary for your test (for example, ATM if you are testing fonts). If unsure whether an item is an extensions or a control panel, put it in the new folder to be safe. If you do not know whether an item is from Apple, check by single-clicking on the item, and choose Get Info from the File Menu.

5 Restart your computer.

To remove INITs with System 6:
1 Open your System Folder by double-clicking it.

2 Choose Kind from the View menu at the top of your screen.

3 Create a new folder.

4 Scroll down the list of items in your System Folder, and drag all non-Apple Control Panel documents and startup documents to the new folder, except any that are necessary for your test (for example, ATM, and perhaps Font Porter if you are testing fonts).

5 Restart your computer.

NOW WHAT?

Test the problem to see if removing the INITs has solved it. If the problem is no longer present, you know that one of your INITs was probably causing the problem. Add them back one at a time or in small batches – restarting and testing your Mac after each addition. With this method, if there is a conflict, you will know which INIT is the culprit.

If you find a problem INIT:

1 Reinstall the INIT from its original disk and retest.

2 Call the manufacturer of the INIT to see if there is an upgrade that is compatible.

3 INITs are loaded alphabetically. Try altering the order in which the INIT is loaded by modifying its name or changing its location. With System 7, INITs can be in any of three places. Those in the Extensions folder load first; those in the Control Panel folder load next; those loose in the System Folder load last. Check with the manufacturer of the INIT for any naming or loading requirements.

4 If you can't get an INIT to work, remove it.

If problems still occur once you have identified and removed all suspect INITs, you may need to reinstall your System software. For help with this process see the technical note "Installing or Reinstalling Macintosh System Software."