
Chapter 9 Multi-Finder Madness

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USENET Macintosh Programmer's Guide

From: mc@fctunl.rccn.pt (Miguel Calejo)

Subject: Re: Context switching under MultiFinder

In article <1990May16.212252.16796@cec1.wustl.edu> wilcox@wucs1.wustl.edu (Charles D Wilcox) writes:

> Just wanted to thank everyone who has answered my stupid :-) question about
> context switching under MultiFinder. The answer, which would be obvious to
> anyone who took the time to think, is to call OpenDeskAcc() with the program
> name. Next time, I promise to think harder (and smarter).

Some experiences I did led me to prefer using Get/WaitNextEvent loops instead, using a common flag to control things. This allows activation of background applications, AND I found it to be slightly faster than OpenDeskAcc(). By the way, on a Mac II all I got were 12 context switchings per second (6 "remote procedure calls").

Has someone made experiences with System 7.0 alpha ? Since applications seem to continue without private memory space, is the context switching improved or not ?

Miguel Calejo

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From: dm@everexn.uucp (Dan McMullen)

Subject: Re: Inhibiting major switching under MultiFinder

In <1990Jun10.010643.5803@cs.UAlberta.CA> news@cs.UAlberta.CA (News Administrator) writes:

>Is there a way I can get MultiFinder to suspend
>major switching at this point without going back to a dBoxProc dialog,
>or putting image display support into my own program?

Currently, multifinder will refuse to do a major task switch if:

- A. The varCode of the window is 1 (==dBoxProc), OR
- B. The high bit of the spareFlag in the windowRecord is set.

This info from a recent query i made to macdts. I got bit by this behavior when a custom WDEF used varCode==1, and would refuse to do the task switch like I expected, so that's one possible solution. Setting the bit in spareFlag might work, but I haven't tried this.

Any comments from Apple as to whether these solutions will continue to work in the future?

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Dan McMullen

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