

Appendix E—Transliteration

Introduction

Eudora has a primitive transliteration facility. It can replace any one character with any other character when sending mail, receiving mail, or displaying a message. This is primarily of interest to people who communicate in languages other than English, or who must send special Macintosh characters in their mail.

Quick 'N Dirty

If you don't want the full story, here's the bottom line.

1. Remove any “taBL” resources from your Eudora Settings file, if you have previously put them there.
2. Put the EudoraTables document in your Preferences folder (system folder, for System 6 users).
3. Start Eudora.
4. Open a message from your In mailbox.
5. Hold down the shift key, and press on the priority popup in the icon bar.
6. Choose the appropriate country code from the menu.
7. Now, choose “New...” from the “Message menu”.
8. Again, hold down the shift key and choose the appropriate country code from the menu.

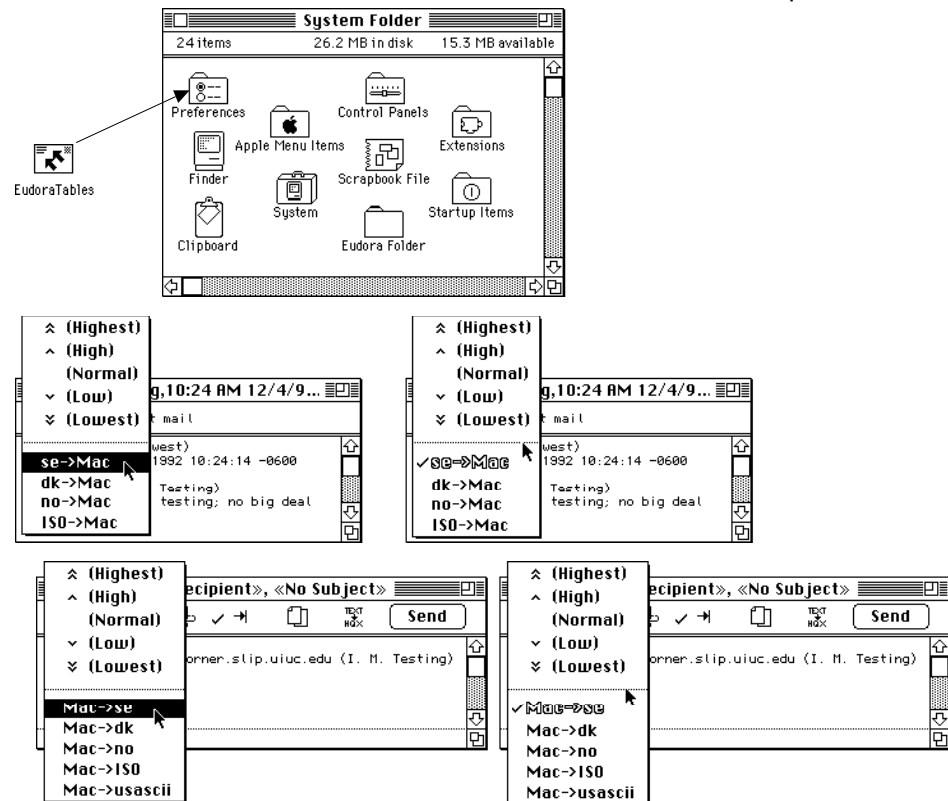


Figure E-1. Configuring Eudora to use the Swedish transliteration tables. Don't forget to hold down the shift key.

“taBL” Resources

Eudora uses “taBL” resources (I call them “tables”) to control this transliteration. A table resource is 256 bytes long; one byte for each possible character. When the table is used, the value of each character is used as an index into the resource. The character is replaced with whatever character is at that position in the table.

The Old Way

Prior versions of Eudora allowed only one set of tables to be active. When Eudora received mail, it looked for a table resource with id 1001. If it found one, it applied that table to all incoming mail before it was stored in your mailboxes. When Eudora sent mail, it looked for a table with id 1002 and used that.

The New Way

While Eudora still supports the old way of doing tables, there is now a new, better way. When Eudora is using the new way, it performs no transliteration to mail before storing it in your

mailboxes. Tables are instead applied when messages are viewed. You may set a default table to view all messages, or use no table by default. Whether or not you have a default table, you can select a table to use for any particular message using the Priority popup menu. The situation is similar for outgoing mail; you can select a table to be used by default, and you can override the default for any given message.

Eudora uses the new way if it finds any named “taBL” resources with resource ids other than 1001, 1002, or 1003. Otherwise, it uses the old way.

Supplied Tables

Eudora comes with two tables; a 1001 table that maps control characters to spaces but otherwise is transparent, and a 1002 table that maps Macintosh characters into their closest US ASCII equivalents.

The file “EudoraTables” contains additional “taBL” resources. These tables are suitable for other languages or character sets. The tables all have names representing the transliteration they perform. For example, the table that maps Swedish ASCII to Macintosh characters is named “se->Mac”. Additionally, the resource id’s of these tables follow a particular pattern. The id’s are generated by taking the Macintosh country code, multiplying by 10, adding 2000, and adding 1 if the table is for receiving mail, or 2 if the table is for sending mail. Therefore, the table that maps Swedish ASCII to Macintosh characters is:

10×7 (seven is the country code for Sweden) + 2000 + 1 (since the table is used for receiving mail), or 2071.

The ISO Latin-1 tables are id’s 2991 and 2992. ISO Latin-1 is a standard character set for many European languages.

Note: The id’s really don’t matter much, except for whether the id is even or odd, but we have to have some scheme to avoid conflicts.

Changing Tables

If you want to control the transliteration of your messages, drag the “EudoraTables” document into your Preferences folder. Start Eudora.

Now, the popup priority menu in the icon bars of messages will list the available transliteration tables in addition to priorities. Only tables with even-numbered id’s are shown for outgoing mail, and tables with odd-numbered id’s are shown for incoming mail.

Incoming Mail

The table (if any) that was used to display the current message will be checked. The table that is used by default (if any) to view messages will be outlined. See Figure E-1.

To change the table used to display a message, select the table you want to use from the priority popup menu. The message will be re

displayed using that table, and that table will be used to display the message from then on.

Outgoing Mail

The table (if any) that will be used when the current message is sent will be checked. The table that is used by default (if any) when sending messages will be outlined. See Figure E-1.

To change the table that will be used to send the message, simply select the table you want to use from the priority popup menu.

Default Tables

If you usually want to view or print your mail with a particular table, hold down the shift key when selecting the table from the priority popup menu for an incoming message. In the future, that table will be outlined in the priority popup menu to show what the default table is, and from then on your messages will be viewed with that table, unless you specify otherwise.

If you usually want to use a particular table for outgoing mail, hold down the shift key and choose that table from the priority popup menu in an outgoing message. In the future, that table will be outlined in the priority popup menu, to show what the default table is, and mail will be sent with that table unless you specify otherwise.

To clear a default table, hold down the shift key and select the outlined table from an appropriate menu. Now, no table will be used by default.

No Table At All

If you want a particular message not to be displayed (or sent) with any table, pull down the priority popup menu. The table in effect for that particular message will be checked. Choose the checked item; the check mark will be erased, and no table will be used when that message is displayed (or sent).

Errant Tables & New Tables

I don't know any language well, except English. I can't debug the supplied tables, nor can I add new ones. I will, however, be happy to accept new or corrected tables from those who want to provide them.

Note: If you create your own tables, I strongly suggest your tables not change things like tabs and returns. The result will be terribly unpleasant. I promise.

Summaries and the Ph Window

The sender and subject lines will be run through the default viewing table when mail arrives, and placed in the message summary (for display in mailbox windows and in the editable subject area). Subsequent viewing

table changes won't affect the summaries.

Ph and finger queries are transliterated with the default sending table (if any), and the responses are transliterated with the default viewing table (if any).

Attachments

Tables are **not** used when sending or receiving BinHex'ed attachments. They are used when sending plain text attachments as plain text.