

#77: HFS Ruminations

See also: The File Manager
 Technical Note #66—
 Determining Which File System is Active
 Technical Note #67—Finding the “Blessed Folder”
 Technical Note #68—
 Searching All Directories on an HFS Volume

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This technical note contains some thoughts concerning HFS.

HFS numbers

A drive number is a small positive word (e.g. 3).

A `VRefNum` (as opposed to a `WRefNum`) is a small negative word (e.g. `$FFFE`).

A `WRefNum` is a large negative word (e.g. `$8033`).

A `DirID` is a long word (e.g. 38). The root directory of an HFS volume always has a `dirID` of 2.

Working Directories

Normally an application doesn't need to open working directories (henceforth `WDs`) using `PBOpenWD`, since `SFGetFile` returns a `WRefnum` if the selected file is in a directory on a hierarchical volume and you are running HFS. There are times, however, when opening a `WD` is desirable (see the discussion about `BootDrive` below).

If you do open a `WD`, it should be created with an `ioWDProcID` of 'ERIK' (`$4552494B`) and it will be deallocated by the Finder. Note that under MultiFinder, `ioWDProcID` will be ignored, so you should only use 'ERIK'.

`SFGetFile` also creates `WDs` with an `ioWDProcID` of 'ERIK'. If `SFGetFile` opens two files from the same directory (during the same application), it will only create one working directory.

There are no `WDRefNums` that refer to the root—the root directory of a volume is always referred to by a `vRefNum`.

When you can use HFS calls

All of the HFS ‘H’ calls, except for `PBHSetVInfo`, can be made without regard to file system as long as you pass in a pointer to an HFS parameter block. `PBHGetVol`, `PBHSetVol` (see the warnings in the File Manager chapter of *Inside Macintosh*), `PBHOOpen`, `PBHOOpenRF`, `PBHCreate`, `PBHDelete`, `PBHGetFInfo`, `PBHSetFInfo`, `PBHSetFLock`, `PBHRstFLock` and `PBHRename` differ from their MFS counterparts only in that a `dirID` can be passed in at offset \$30.

The only difference between, for example, `PBOpen` and `PBHOOpen` is that bit 9 of the trap word is set, which tells HFS to use a larger parameter block. MFS ignores this bit, so it will use the smaller parameter block (not including the `dirID`). Remember that all of these calls will accept a `WDRefNum` in the `ioVRefNum` field of the parameter block.

`PBHGetVInfo` returns more information than `PBGetVInfo`, so, if you’re counting on getting information that is returned in the HFS parameter block, but not in the MFS parameter block, you should check to see which file system is active.

HFS-specific calls can only be made if HFS is active. These calls are: `PBGetCatInfo`, `PBSetCatInfo`, `PBOpenWD`, `PBCloseWD`, `PBGetFCBInfo`, `PBGetWDInfo`, `PBCatMove` and `PBDirCreate`. `PBHSetVInfo` has no MFS equivalent. If any of these calls are made when MFS is running, a system error will be generated. If `PBCatMove` or `PBDirCreate` are called for an MFS volume, the function will return the error code –123 (wrong volume type). If `PBGetCatInfo` or `PBSetCatInfo` are called on MFS volumes, it’s just as if `PBGetFInfo` and `PBSetFInfo` were called.

Default volume

If HFS is running, a call to `GetVol` (before you’ve made any `SetVol` calls) will return the `WDRefNum` of your application’s parent directory in the `vRefNum` parameter. If your application was launched by the user clicking on one or more documents, the `WDRefNums` of those documents’ parent directories are available in the `vRefNum` field of the `AppFile` record returned from `GetAppFiles`.

If MFS is running, a call to `GetVol` (before you’ve made any `SetVol` calls) will return the `vRefNum` of the volume your application is on in the `vRefNum` parameter. If your application was launched by the user clicking on one or more documents, the `vRefNum` of those documents’ volume are available in the `vRefNum` field of the `AppFile` record returned from `GetAppFiles`.

BootDrive

If your application or desk accessory needs to get the `WDRefNum` of the “blessed folder” of the boot drive (for example, you might want to store a configuration file there), it can not rely on the low-memory global `BootDrive` (a word at \$210) to contain the correct value. If your application is the startup application, `BootDrive` will contain the `WDRefNum` of the directory/volume that your application is in (not the `WDRefNum` of the “blessed folder”); Your application could have been `_Launched` from an application that has modified `BootDrive`; if you are a desk accessory, you might find that some applications alter `BootDrive`.

To get the “real” `WDRefNum` of the “blessed folder” that contains the currently open System file, you should call `SysEnvirons` (discussed in Technical Note #129). If that is impossible, you can do something like this (**Note:** if you are running under MFS, `BootDrive` always contains the `vRefNum` of the volume on which the currently open System file is located):

```
...
CONST
    SysWDPProcID   = $4552494B; {"ERIK"}
    BootDrive      = $210;      {address of Low-Mem global BootDrive}
    FSFCBLen       = $3F6;      {address of Low-Mem global to
                                distinguish file systems }
    SysMap         = $A58;      {address of Low-Mem global that contains
                                system map reference number}

TYPE
    WordPtr = ^Integer;        {Pointer to a word(2 bytes)}
...

FUNCTION HFSExists: BOOLEAN;

Begin {HFSExists}
    HFSExists := WordPtr(FSFCBLen)^ > 0;
End; {HFSExists}

FUNCTION GetRealBootDrive: INTEGER;

VAR
    MyHPB          : HParamBlockRec;
    MyWDPB         : WDPBRec;
    err            : OSErr;
    sysVRef        : integer; {will be the vRefNum of open system's vol}

Begin {GetRealBootDrive}
    if HFSExists then Begin {If we're running under HFS... }

        {get the VRefNum of the volume that }
        {contains the open System File      }
        err:= GetVRefNum(WordPtr(SysMap)^, sysVRef);
```

```

with MyHPB do Begin
{Get the "System" vRefNum and "Blessed" dirID}
    ioNamePtr    := NIL;
    ioVRefNum    := sysVRef; {from the GetVrefNum call}
    ioVolIndex   := 0;
End; {with}
err := PBHGetVInfo(@MyHPB, FALSE);

with myWDPB do Begin      {Open a working directory there}
    ioNamePtr    := NIL;
    ioVRefNum    := sysVRef;
    ioWDProcID   := SysWDProcID; {Using the system proc ID}
    ioWDDirID   := myHPB.ioVFndrInfo[1];{ see TechNote 67}
End; {with}
err := PBOpenWD(@myWDPB, FALSE);

GetRealBootDrive := myWDPB.ioVRefNum;
{We've got the real WD}
End Else {we're running MFS}
    GetRealBootDrive := WordPtr(BootDrive)^;
    {BootDrive is valid under MFS}
End; {GetRealBootDrive}

```

From MPW C:

```

/*"ERIK"*/
#define SysWDProcID 0x4552494B
#define BootDrive 0x210
/*address of Low-Mem global that contains system map reference number*/
#define SysMap 0xA58
#define FSFCBLen 0x3F6
#define HFSIsRunning ((*(short int *) (FSFCBLen)) > 0)

OSErr GetRealBootDrive(BDrive)
short int *BDrive;
{ /*GetRealBootDrive*/

    /*three different parameter blocks are used here for clarity*/
    HVolumeParam myHPB;
    FCBPRec myFCBRec;
    WDPBRec myWDPB;
    OSErr err;
    short int sysVRef; /*will be the vRefNum of open system's
                        vol*/

    if (HFSIsRunning)

    { /*if we're running under HFS... */

        /*get the vRefNum of the volume that contains the open System File*/
        myFCBRec.ioNamePtr= nil;
        myFCBRec.ioVRefNum = 0;
        myFCBRec.ioRefNum = *(short int *) (SysMap);
        myFCBRec.ioFCBIndx = 0;

        err = PBGetFCBInfo(&myFCBRec, false);
        if (err != noErr) return(err);
        /*now we need the dirID of the "Blessed Folder" on this volume*/
        myHPB.ioNamePtr = nil;

```

```

myHPB.ioVRefNum = myFCBRec.ioFCBVRefNum;
myHPB.ioVolIndex = 0;

err = PBHGetVInfo(&myHPB, false);
if (err != noErr) return(err);

/*we can now open a WD for the directory that contains the open system
file one will most likely already be open, so PBOpenWD will just return that
WDRefNum*/
myWDPB.ioNamePtr = nil;
myWDPB.ioVRefNum = myHPB.ioVRefNum;
myWDPB.ioWDProcID = SysWDProcID; /*'ERIK'*/
myWDPB.ioWDDirID = myHPB.ioVFndrInfo[0]; /* see Technote # 67
[c has 0-based arrays]*/

err = PBOpenWD(&myWDPB, false);
if (err != noErr) return err;

*BDrive = myWDPB.ioVRefNum; /*that's all!*/
} /* if (HFSIsRunning) */
else
*BDrive = *(short int *) (BootDrive);
/*BootDrive is valid under MFS*/

return noErr;
} /*GetRealBootDrive*/

```

The Poor Man's Search Path (PMSP)

If HFS is running, the PMSP is used for any file system call that can return a file-not-found error, such as `PBOpen`, `PBClose`, `PBDelete`, `PBGetCatInfo`, etc. It is **not** used for indexed calls (that is, where `ioFDirIndex` is positive) or when a file is created (`PBCreate`) or when a file is being moved between directories (`PBCatMove`). The PMSP is also **not** used when a non-zero `dirID` is specified.

Here's a brief description of how the default PMSP works.

- 1) The directory that you specify (specified by `WDRefNum` or pathname) is searched; if the specified file is not found, then
- 2) the volume/directory specified by `BootDrive` (low-memory global at \$210) is searched IF it is on the same volume as the directory you specified (see #1 above); if the specified file is not found, or the directory specified by `BootDrive` is not on the same volume as the directory that you specified, then
- 3) if there is a "blessed folder" on the same volume as the directory you specified (see #1 above), it is searched. Please note that if #2 above specifies the same directory as #3, then that directory is **not** searched twice. If no file is found, then
- 4) `fnfErr` is returned.

ioDirID and ioFINum

Two fields of the `HParamBlockRec` record share the same location. `ioDirID` and `ioFlNum` are both at offset \$30 from the start of the parameter block. This causes a problem, since, in some calls (e.g. `PBGetCatInfo`), a `dirID` is passed in and a file number is returned in the same field.

Future versions of Apple's HFS interfaces will omit the `ioFlNum` designator, so, if you need to get the file number of a file, it will be in the `ioDirID` of the parameter block **after** you have made the call. If you are making successive calls that depend on `ioDirID` being set correctly, you must "reset" the `ioDirID` field before each call. The program fragment in Technical Note #68 does this.

PBGetVInfo

Normally, `PBGetVInfo` will be called specifying a `vRefNum`. There are times, however, when you may make the call and only specify a volume name. If this is so, there are a couple of things to look out for.

Let's say that we have two volumes mounted: "Vol1:" (the default volume) and "Vol2:". We also have a variable of type `HParamBlockRec` called `MyHPB`. We want to get information about `Vol2:`, so we put a pointer to a string (let's call it `fName`) in `MyHPB.ioNamePtr`. The string `fName` is equal to "Vol2" (Please note the missing colon). We also initialize `MyHPB.ioVRefNum` to 0. Then we make the call. We are very surprised to find out that we are returned an error of 0 (`noErr`) and that the `ioVRefNum` that we get back is **not** the `vRefNum` of `Vol2:`, but rather that of `Vol1:`.

Here's what's happening: `PBGetVInfo` looks at the volume name, and sees that it is improper (it is missing a colon). So, being a forgiving sort of call, it goes on to look at the `ioVRefNum` field that you passed it (see pp. 99 of *Inside Macintosh*, vol. II). It sees a 0 there, so it returns information about the default volume.

If you want to get information about a volume, and you just have its name and you are not sure that the name is a proper one, you should set `MyHPB.ioVRefNum` to `-32768` (`$8000`). No `vRefNum` or `WDRefNum` can be equal to `$8000`. By doing this, you are forcing `PBGetVInfo` to use the volume name and, if that name is invalid, to return a `-35` error (`nsvErr`), "No such volume."

PBGetWDInfo and Register D1

There was a problem with `PBGetWDInfo` that sometimes caused the call to inaccurately report the `dirID` of a directory. It is fixed in System 3.2 and later. To be absolutely sure that you won't get stung by this, clear register D1 (`CLR.L D1`) before a call to `PBGetWDInfo`. You can do this either with an `INLINE` (Lisa Pascal and most C's) or with a short assembly-language routine before the call to `PBGetWDInfo`.