



Tech Info Library

Omnis 3+ Multi-user on the Corvus Network

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Security: Everyone

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1) Multi-user Omnis 3+

Omnis 3+ multi-user version is a true multi-user program and will allow several users to access the same data simultaneously. The record-locking facility in Omnis 3+ automatically prevents two or more users from attempting to modify the same information at the same time, but allows an unlimited number of users to read the same information. The same copy of multi-user Omnis 3+ may be used to access different databases simultaneously. These features are built in and are transparent to both the user and the developer.

In order to use the multi-user version of Omnis 3+, care must be taken in installing Omnis 3+ and in configuring the network environment. Failure to properly install Omnis 3+ or correctly configure the network may result in the inability to run Omnis 3+ in the multi-user environment. In most cases, it could also result in the corruption or loss of data.

2) The Network

Multi-user Omnis 3+ may be installed on Corvus disk drives residing on the Corvus Omninet using the Contellation III (Release 2 or later) Network Software for the Macintosh. If you have the wrong system software, do not attempt to install Omnis 3+, call your dealer or Corvus to obtain the correct software.

We have assumed at this point that you have properly installed the network software and have physically connected your network together.

3) Volumes

There are four types of volumes in the Corvus environment: Private, Public, Controlled, and Uncontrolled. The following is a brief description of each,

additional information is available in your Corvus manuals and/or guides.

Private - can only be mounted by the owner; can be mounted as either read/write or read-only

Public - can be mounted read-only by any user; can only be mounted read/write by the owner

Controlled - can be mounted read/write by any one user; additional users may only have read-only access

Uncontrolled - can be mounted read/write or read-only by any user at any time; this is the type of volume used by Omnis 3+ shared files since all users must be able to both read and write simultaneously

4) Recommended Volume Configuration

Each user must have his or her own private volume which contains the Macintosh system documents (System, Finder, etc.) since these documents cannot be shared. The Omnis3.info file should also reside in this volume inside your system folder. Single-user applications can also be stored in this volume. The Omnis 3+ Utilities is a single-user application and should be stored in a private volume.

An uncontrolled volume should contain the Omnis 3+ program. The size of this volume is determined by the multi-user applications that are to be stored in this volume. Print resource documents (LaserWriter and LaserWriter Prep) must also be in this volume. The ImageWriter driver can also be stored in this volume, but care has to be taken to make sure that only one user at a time tries to print using this driver since it is a single-user resource. Loss of data may occur if more than one person tries to print using this resource.

A second uncontrolled volume should be created to contain the Omnis 3+ libraries and data files. This volume should be made as large as the anticipated size of all the data files. If possible, the volume should have enough free space to hold a copy of the largest anticipated data file in case a data reorganization is necessary.

5) Omnis 3+ Multi-user Considerations

Always maintain backup copies of all libraries and data files.

No other copy of Omnis 3+ should be available to the user of a multi-user version of Omnis 3+. Loss of data may occur if a user tries to access a database that is already being used by another copy of Omnis 3+.

Creation of new libraries or data files must be done through the Utilities in a private volume.

Omnis 3+ multi-user cannot automatically extend the size of the library or the data file. When the space allocated to the files have been used up, the user

will get messages that will inform them that the file is full. Use the Omnis 3+ Utilities to increase the size of the library or data file. At this point, it is recommended that all other users be logged off.

Omnis 3+ multi-user stores internal semaphore flags in the library to keep track of which records are being accessed. If Omnis 3+ or the network is interrupted while executing a multi-user application, a semaphore lock-up or corruption may occur. This will result in abnormal behavior while using the Omnis 3+ multi-user application. If this happens, there are two ways to clear the semaphore table:

Reboot Omnis 3+ while holding down the "Command-S" keys. Keep holding the keys down until the application has successfully launched.

Mount the volume which contains the library in a private volume and launch the Utilities program. Select the library with the corrupted semaphore table and go into "Library Utilities". Delete the semaphore table. This is the format labelled "WORK999". This will cause Omnis 3+ to re-create a new semaphore table when the library is launched. Mount the volume as an uncontrolled volume and launch the library.

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