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Macintosh: Resources

Revised: 5/10/89
Security: Everyone

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This article last reviewed: 10 November 1987

Every Macintosh application is a collection of discrete modules of data called resources. When a programmer assembles or compiles his source code into object code, the code is placed in a resource of type CODE. The programmer may then link to his CODE resource other data resources his code will use. These may include resources such as menus, fonts, windows, controls, dialog boxes, icons or pictures.

At power up, the Resource Manager initializes in ROM. To refer to and access resources, which are grouped logically by "type", application code can use the Resource Manager on an "as needed" basis, usually specifying the resource by type and either ID number or name. Since resources can be contained in files separate from the programmer's CODE resource, many programmers keep their code size minimal by referencing resources in the System file.

Resource types are distinguished by their four-character labels. Apple has reserved all resource type names which consist of lower case or international characters (ASCII \$61-\$7A and \$7F on up). Additionally, Apple reserves the resource type names in the article "Macintosh: Reserved resource type names".

You can make alterations to discrete resources outside of the programmer's code, customizing or localizing the resource with foreign language prompts, currency formatting and other custom representations. Use ResEdit, REdit, and these tools' accompanying documentation, available through the Apple Programmer Development Association (APDA), to individualize almost any application or to edit custom-programmed resources.

For sources of information about the Resource Manager and resources in applications and in ROM, consult Inside Macintosh, volumes I-IV. Chapter 5, volume I and chapter 3 volume IV pertain directly to the Resource Manager. For information about resources used by the DeskTop file, read Apple Macintosh TechNote #29, "Resources Contained in the DeskTop File."

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Tech Info Library Article Number:2022