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Why No Kana Operating System Exists For The Macintosh

Revised: 9/25/92
Security: Everyone

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Article Created: 18 August 1988

Article Change History:

- 09/24/92 - REVIEWED
 - For technical accuracy.

Some users have asked about a Kana operating system for the Macintosh. Not only is Apple not aware of any such OS, it is unlikely there would be one.

To better explain how this all works, let's look at how the Japanese written language has developed:

Japanese writing is a blend of four written character sets: Kanji, Hiragana, Katakana and Romaji. Characters from all four sets can occur in a single sentence. Hiragana and Katakana are two elements of what is known as Kana.

Kanji

Written communication in Japan began with the direct importation of the Chinese picture characters the Japanese call Kanji. Initially, each Kanji symbol was used in Japanese to represent a single word.

Kana (Hiragana & Katakana)

Eventually, the Japanese devised two separate phonetic syllabaries called Hiragana and Katakana, or simply Kana. Hiragana and Katakana are two different styles of writing the same sounds. Unlike the Kanji, each Kana character represents a syllable rather than a word or concept. Both are used in conjunction with Kanji to form the Japanese written system of today.

Romaji

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Romaji are Roman alphabetic characters. These characters are rarely used except in dealing with foreigners and occasionally a company name.

Given these facts, a Kana OS would be a subset of KanjiTalk.

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Tech Info Library Article Number:3199