Tech Info Library

UNIX: Access to Macintosh File System

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TOPIC ---

Do we have any documentation of what type of access is available in A/UX 2.0 to access the Macintosh side from UNIX applications? This would include writing programs or shell scripts that manipulate Macintosh programs or data in a Macintosh file system.

DISCUSSION --

You can write hybrid applications that can access Macintosh volumes but retain a UNIX interface. To do this, you must use the calls provided in the Toolbox. These calls are documented in "Inside Macintosh" with the differences documented in the "A/UX Toolbox" manual.

Standard Macintosh applications can, of course, use both UNIX and Macintosh file systems simply by making the standard Macintosh File Manager calls. If these calls are used to access a UNIX file system, they are mapped internally to the appropriate UNIX routines instead, without the Macintosh application being aware of any differences.

On the other side, UNIX programs cannot see or use the Macintosh volumes. The "ls" binary is a perfect example of this. Because it was written using the standard UNIX libraries, it cannot access any Macintosh volumes. Because of this, shell scripts are also incapable of accessing Macintosh volumes. It is conceivable that you could write your own version of "ls" that uses the Toolbox but retains the same interface as the existing command. At that point, you could then use the command from within a shell script.

The A/UX Development Tools product is a full development package supporting this type of development.

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