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System 7: File Sharing Performance Compared with AppleShare

Revised: 9/4/92
Security: Everyone

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Article Created: 4 March 1991

Article Change History

09/04/92 - REVISED

- To clarify and provide additional information and numbers from other sources.

TOPIC -----

How does file sharing differ from the AppleShare File Server?

DISCUSSION -----

AppleShare File Servers are designed to perform much better than Macintosh computers using file sharing when large numbers of users with heavy load requirements are involved. Service from a Macintosh with AppleShare File server software performs approximately 25 percent better than a Macintosh using file sharing for the same configuration.

File sharing lets an individual directly share and control sharing of folders of information with a small group of individuals. An AppleShare file server provides centralized control of sharing by an Administrator for a large group of individuals. File sharing is built around the Macintosh user with the focus and emphasis on personal control of sharing local folders. The distinguishing marks of centralized file service includes issues regarding administration for large workgroups, performance, and central access. System 7's file sharing is a form of distributed file sharing.

Performance and access needs will determine which approach provides the best service. File sharing is best suited for small workgroup focus, with optimal performance for low sharing load situations. Centralized file servers like AppleShare are designed for high traffic with large numbers of

users and are designed for continuous operation with no interruptions.

Using file sharing, up to 10 folders per machine can be shared, each having an unlimited number of enclosed folders. Up to 10 guest users can be connected to a networked hard disk, with up to 50 guest users identified in the Users and Groups file. This contrasts with 120 concurrent users for AppleShare 3.0.

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Tech Info Library Article Number:6854