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System 7: How to Use File Sharing

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Article Change History

07/25/91 - REVIEWED
09/04/92 - REVISED
            • To include additional information from other articles and
              correct other information.

TOPIC ---

What is file sharing? How do I turn file sharing on? How can I use file
sharing to share files between my portable and my desktop Macintosh?

DISCUSSION --

Macintosh file sharing is a powerful feature of Macintosh System 7 that
lets you share your folders (and their files) with other people on a
network. File sharing operates on any Macintosh that can run System 7 and
is connected to an AppleTalk network. With your permission, others can view
and even edit documents on your hard drive from their machines. Macintosh
file sharing works between two or more Macintosh computers and you don't
need to dedicate a Macintosh as a file server. Macintosh file sharing
includes powerful security features, so that you may control access to your
information through the specification of passwords privileges people have,
for example read or write privileges.

Ten users can be connected to a shared volume at one time. You can directly
share up to ten folders. Once a folder is shared the folders contained
within the shared folder are automatically shared as well, and they do not
get counted as part of the ten directly shared folders.

Before you can share files, you must turn on the file sharing capability.

Doing so takes an extra 268K of memory. Once you turn it on, it stays on
until you turn it off again, including when you later restart your computer.

How to Turn on File Sharing
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1) Choose Control Panels from the Apple menu and double-click the Sharing
   Setup control panel.

2) Make sure that you have identified your computer to the network. You
   have to give an Owner Name, an Owner Password, and a Macintosh Name.

3) Click the Start button. Its label changes to "Cancel" and the status
   line describes what is happening while file sharing is starting up. It
   may take a minute or so to complete. When the status line says "File
   sharing is on" and the button is labeled "Stop," your computer is ready
   to share files. If you start file sharing when AppleTalk is not active,
   it will be automatically turned on for you.

4) Close the Sharing Setup control panel and the Control Panels folder.

How to Share a Folder

Follow these steps:

1) Select the folder.

2) Choose Sharing from the File menu.

3) Click Share This Item And Its Contents.

4) Close the Privileges Window.

5) When asked for confirmation, click Save.

How to Log on as Owner

As the owner or administrator of two Macintosh systems - a desktop and a
portable model for example - file sharing can be even easier. An AppleTalk
network can be as small as two Macintosh computers connected together with
LocalTalk (or compatible) cabling. Once connected together, either
Macintosh computer can turn on file sharing. There is no need to share
folders, because the owner can access everything. From the other
Macintosh, you can connect with the AppleShare workstation software as the
owner. Follow these steps to connect remotely as the owner:

1) Open the Chooser.

2) Select AppleShare.

3) Select your Macintosh computer.

4) Type your name, as you typed it in Owner Name field in the Sharing Setup dialog on the Macintosh you are connecting to.

5) Type your password, as you typed it in Owner Password field in the Sharing Setup dialog on the Macintosh you are connecting to.

You will see all the disk resources connected to the remote Macintosh as if you are looking directly at its desktop. Make an alias of the volume for even easier future access.

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