



# Tech Info Library

## Personal Sharing: File Sharing Can't be Enabled Message (5/95)

Revised: 5/17/95  
Security: Everyone

Personal Sharing: File Sharing Can't be Enabled Message (5/95)

=====  
Article Created: 1 February 1993  
Article Reviewed/Updated: 17 May 1995

### TOPIC -----

I get the message, "File sharing cannot be enabled", even though I have file sharing turned on. What do I have to do to enable personal file sharing?

### DISCUSSION -----

Try these steps in the order presented. If a step fails to restart file sharing, proceed to the next one.

#### Third-Party File Sharing Software

-----  
Find out if TOPS (a third party sharing application) or other file sharing software was previously run on your system. Third-party software that performs this function can modify the System file, disabling System 7 File Sharing. If so, do a clean installation of System Software.

#### Adequate Volume Space

-----  
Look for adequate space on the volumes being shared on your computer. System 7.x creates a few support files for file sharing, and if there is insufficient space on ANY attached disk or partition, file sharing is not enabled. File sharing requires at least 360K of disk space available on each connected disk or partition. More space may be required when there are many Users and Groups. If any volume has less than 360K available, File Sharing reports "File Sharing Cannot Be Enabled."

The only exception to this requirement concerns locked volumes, like CD-ROMs. The information required for sharing a locked volume is stored on the startup disk instead.

#### Adequate RAM

-----

File sharing requires about 268K of RAM (Random Access Memory) to operate. Applications may not launch, if your Macintosh has less memory than the application requires. Either remove unnecessary extensions to a folder outside the System Folder, or acquire additional RAM for your computer.

#### Reset Parameter RAM

-----

Zap (reset) the PRAM (Parameter RAM) by pressing the key sequence Command-Option-P-R while starting your System 7.x-equipped computer. This resets the serial ports, so you may need to reactivate AppleTalk on some Macintosh computers.

#### Conflicting Extensions

-----

Check for conflicting extensions by using the Extensions Manager control panel to turn off all extensions that do not come with system software. Restart, if file sharing now works, find the conflicting extension by turning the extensions on one at a time.

#### Delete Users & Groups Data File

-----

If you are sharing only the startup volume, and the startup volume is the only volume attached to the computer, try the following steps. However, if you have more than one volume, skip this section.

##### Step 1

Turn file sharing off using the Sharing Setup control panel.

##### Step 2

Move (do not delete) the Users & Groups data file, in the Preferences folder, to another folder outside the System folder.

##### Step 3

Restart the computer.

##### Step 4

Open the Sharing Setup control panel, and enter a new Owner Name, Owner Password, and Macintosh Name, replacing any previous data. Be sure to use new or different names.

##### Step 5

Turn File Sharing on.

If this does not resolve the problem, move the Users & Groups data file back into the Preferences folder.

#### Delete the File Sharing Folder

-----

##### Step 1

Delete the File Sharing folder from the Preferences folder within the System Folder.

##### Step 2

Restart the computer.

### Step 3

Turn File Sharing on.

### Third-Party Formatting Software

-----

If you format any media with a third-party utility, check with the vendor for compatibility with File Sharing and replace the driver if necessary.

### Recreate the AppleShare PDS File

-----

You can delete an invisible file called AppleShare PDS on the top level of all connected volumes when sharing. The AppleShare PDS file may need to be deleted on each volume on multiple drive systems, or drives with multiple partitions.

To help troubleshoot in multiple drive situations, start the computer with just the startup volume on. If file sharing works in this configuration, add another drive to the chain and test file sharing each time until you find the drive that prevents file sharing from starting. You can then concentrate on the drive that fails and remove its PDS file.

**IMPORTANT:** Deleting the PDS file removes all access privileges assigned to folders. You need to reassign access privileges to the folders.

### Step 1

Delete the PDS file with ResEdit or a third-party utility that lets you view invisible files. Use the utility to unlock the file and make it visible on the desktop so you can drag it to the Trash.

If you do not have a utility, try to replace the Owner Name and Macintosh Name in the Sharing Setup control panel with different text. You can change them back to their original values later. When you start File Sharing, the system creates a new AppleShare PDS file on the startup volume.

### Step 2

Restart the computer.

### Step 3

Turn File Sharing on. New AppleShare PDS files are created.

### Re-install Software

-----

Before reformatting the hard disk, try re-installing the system software or File-Sharing software and restart the computer.

### Reformat

-----

Back up the data and reformat the media. A bad block may be causing the problem.

**IMPORTANT:** Be sure to back up your data before reformatting. The formatting process erases all data from the volume.

This article is one of many available through the Apple Fax center. For a complete list of available Fax documents, search the Tech Info Library for Apple Fax Document Index or call the Apple Fax line at 1-800-505-0171 and select document number 20000 (Apple Fax - Document Index - Product Support Literature). The Apple Fax center is available free of charge 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Article Change History:

17 May 1995 - Added conflicting extensions solution.  
23 Mar 1995 - Made additional minor updates.  
17 Mar 1995 - Made minor corrections.

Support Information Services

Copyright 1993-95, Apple Computer, Inc.

Tech Info Library Article Number:11368