



Tech Info Library

PowerShare Server: Catalog Services (9/93)

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TOPIC -----

This article describes the PowerShare Server's Catalog Services.

DISCUSSION -----

In a PowerShare System, the catalog is a collection of records stored in folders on one or more PowerShare Catalog Servers. Each catalog record contains information about an entity in the PowerShare System, which can be a user, group of users, network device (such as a printer or file server), purchase order forms, or meeting rooms.

The structure of the PowerShare catalog is easily customized to fit your organization's needs. For example, you can design the catalog to reflect organizational hierarchy, function, geographic distribution, or the type of information stored.

Within each record, information about the entity is stored as a collection of attributes. For example, a record named "William Smith" of the type "User" can store information about that user such as telephone number, building, and so on. Another record named "ColorPrint" of the type "LaserWriter" can store information about a printer.

In a collaborative environment, a catalog can be used by users and by PowerTalk-savvy services and applications to locate entities, store information, indicate status, or provide any other type of information that may be required by collaborative applications.

In the same way that you can arrange files in folders on your Macintosh desktop, you store records in containers known as catalog folders. Each catalog folder in the PowerShare System can contain records or other catalog folders. You can use the PowerShare Admin provided with your server software to administer the catalog structure; creating folders and manipulating the catalog structure to fit your needs. The PowerShare

software provides built-in templates that allow you to quickly create records that you can use to store information about individual users and groups of users in your organization.

The structure of the PowerShare catalog is easily customized to fit your organization's needs. For example, you can design the catalog to reflect organizational hierarchy, function, geographic distribution, or the type of information stored. The figure below represents the hierarchical structure of a PowerShare System catalog, designed by an administrator to reflect the organization of a fictitious company.

With the PowerShare Admin, you can manage the structure of the PowerShare catalog in much the same way as you manage folders and files in the Macintosh Finder.

Keep in mind that the hierarchical structure of folders is simply a means of organizing and managing information—it does not necessarily represent network connectivity or physical proximity.

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