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AWS 95, AppleShare Pro and Non-root Users (12/93)

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Security: Everyone

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TOPIC -----

This article describes why the Apple Workgroup Server (AWS) 95 will not allow non-root users to run AppleShare Pro. Also the use of a screen saver with password protection will provide security.

DISCUSSION -----

There are no plans to implement support for non-root users to run AppleShare Pro on the AWS 95. Its implementation has been investigated and the effort necessary to make such a change would be great.

Several factors were considered before arriving at this decision. Since AppleShare Pro requires write access to the "/" volume for the creation of the PDS file, it needs to be a root process. Other administrative functions require root access as well. For example, mounting file systems, initializing a hard disk, making a new file system, the creation of a new kernel, modifying the A/UX Buffer Cache which changes the A/UX kernel, and so on.

If the AWS 95 is in a situation where security is a concern, we suggest the use of a screen saver which allows for password protection. You must use a module that does not require CPU cycles to work. For example, AfterDark, using the FadeAway module with the SystemIQ monitor enabled. Any other AfterDark module will affect the server performance.

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