



# Tech Info Library

## Internet: BinHex Translation Error (1/97)

Revised: 1/9/97  
Security: Everyone

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### TOPIC -----

This article describes the "improper BinHex format" error that occurs when downloading files from Internet ftp servers and gives methods of avoiding future errors.

### DISCUSSION -----

Customers may complain of BinHex translation problems when they attempt to download software from ftp.info.apple.com (Apple's primary ftp site for Apple software updates) or other Internet sites.

In most cases, the customers will get half way through the download then have a BinHex related error message.

### SOLUTION:

1) Update software -- In most cases, this error occurs when software packages like Fetch are being used. Older versions of Fetch tend to produce this error. If customers update to Fetch 3.0.1 (or the latest version of their client of choice), the problem is usually resolved.

2) Turn BinHex translation off -- BinHex (signified by .hqx) documents are large text files. If the first few lines of text are not what the BinHex translator expects, it will produce the "improper BinHex format" error. If this is the case, turn BinHex translation off, download the file as a binary, then use something like StuffIt Expander (freeware) to do the BinHex translation. It is generally more robust and able to see past many improper .hqx formatting errors.

### Article Change History:

09 Jan 1997 - Updated to reflect latest information

Support Information Services

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