



# Tech Info Library

## Finder Search Path For Applications (5/95)

Revised: 5/31/95  
Security: Everyone

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Article Created: 8 May 1995  
Article Reviewed/Updated: 31 May 1995

TOPIC -----

When I open a document and have multiple versions of the application that created it on my hard drive, how does the Finder determine which version of the application to open?

DISCUSSION -----

The Finder searches for the correct application based on the "creator type" of the document. The search path the Finder uses is as follows:

Step 1

The Finder first checks to see if an application with the same creator is already running.

Step 2

The Finder searches the volume containing the document being opened.

Step 3

The Finder searches the startup volume.

Step 4

The Finder searches the rest of mounted volumes.

In the event of multiple versions of the same application on one volume, the Finder launches the application whose record in the desktop database was updated last. This is usually the last version installed.

The Finder stops searching at the first version of the application it finds. Here is a simple test to demonstrate this behavior.

Step 1

Make a copy of the SimpleText application.

Step 2

Put the new copy in the Trash, but do not Empty the Trash.

Step 3

Double-click a SimpleText document on the same volume as the original SimpleText application to open SimpleText.

Step 4

The Finder displays a message stating the application cannot be used because it is in the Trash, even though there is another copy that is not in the Trash.

This article was published in the "Information Alley":  
Volume II, Issue 3, Page 4

Article Change History:

31 May 1995 - Added Info Alley information; made minor updates.

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Tech Info Library Article Number:17713