Tech Info Library

MacTCP: How It Uses FTP Address to Connect (9/95)

```
Revised:        9/26/95
Security:       Everyone
```

MacTCP: How It Uses FTP Address to Connect (9/95)

==

Article Created: 14 July 1995
Article Reviewed/Updated: 26 September 1995

TOPIC ---

I am beginning to use MacTCP and some Internet software for the first time. I
have noticed that many times I type a hostname and do not connect to the server
I intended to.

DISCUSSION --

When you ask MacTCP to connect to a hostname, several steps occur before MacTCP
connects.

If the Name is "Fully Qualified"
================================

MacTCP checks the hostname for a period. If the hostname ends in a period,
MacTCP looks up exactly what was typed. This applies to names of any length. The
default domain in MacTCP is ignored.

Examples

• If you ftp to ftp.info.apple.com, MacTCP always connects you to
  ftp.info.apple.com. (since it ends in a period).
• If you ftp to ftp. MacTCP looks for ftp. (it also ends in a period).

If the Name is "Partially Qualified"
====================================

If the name typed is longer than one word (separated by periods), MacTCP
connects to whatever was typed. The default domain in MacTCP is ignored.

Examples

- If you type ftp.info.apple.com, MacTCP looks for ftp.info.apple.com.
- If your default domain is apple.com and you type ftp.info, MacTCP
  ignores the domain and looks for ftp.info.

NOTE: Most Macintosh users expect this behavior, but it is important to remember
that other TCP/IP software (UNIX, Open Transport, DOS software) may behave
differently. Ideally, the second example would have resulted in a lookup for
ftp.info.apple.com.

If the Name is Just a Hostname
==============================

If the name is one word, then add the "default domain" from the MacTCP control
panel.

Example

- If your domain is info.apple.com and you type ftp, MacTCP looks for
  ftp.info.apple.com.
- If the hosts file or domain name servers have information on the host
  and the host is working, you should connect to the desired machine.

This article was published in the "Information Alley":
Volume II, Issue 9, Page 13

Article Change History:
26 Sep 1995 - Added Info Alley information; updated

Support Information Services

Copyright 1995, Apple Computer, Inc.

Tech Info Library Article Number:18174