AppleWorks: Converting PFS:File & PFS:Write Files to AppleWorks

This article last reviewed: 9/1/87

Here are several ways to convert Pascal-based PFS:Write and PFS:File files
to AppleWorks.

PFS:Write

The ProDOS version of PFS:Write includes a conversion program called
PFS:Convert, which lets you convert Pascal-based PFS files to the new ProDOS
PFS:Write format. Once you've made this conversion, start the ProDOS version
of PFS:Write and load the file you want to transfer to AppleWorks. From the
PFS:Write Main Menu, save the file using the suffix ".TXT." PFS:Write will
now save the file as a standard ASCII file stripped of formatting commands
except line breaks. Now you can start AppleWorks, and use the "Make a new
document for the Word Processor" function and type in the file's pathname.
You will have to reformat the document.

The Pascal PFS Conversion Disk also converts Pascal PFS:Write and PFS:File
documents to ProDOS (ASCII) files. Jim Luther, 5716 Forest, Kansas City MO
64110.

The March 1986 issue of Call-A.P.P.L.E. contains a conversion program that
you can either type yourself, or download from the A.P.P.L.E. Crate Bulletin
Board (206) 251-0543. Call-A.P.P.L.E., 290 S. W. 43rd Street, Renton WA
98055, 206/251-5222.

PFS:File

If your PFS:File records fit within AppleWorks' limits (number of categories
and fields) no special preparation is necessary. If you have more categories,
than AppleWorks allows, you'll have to decide which are not vital and delete
them. If you have fields longer than 76 characters, AppleWorks should
truncate the additional characters, but AppleWorks versions earlier than 1.3
don't always do so.

After using the PFS:Convert program that comes with the ProDOS version of
PFS:File, use the "Copy Selected Forms to An ASCII File" in the ProDOS
PFS:File program, enter the prefix and file name for the new ASCII text file.
When the ASCII options menu is displayed, choose a number between 1 and 30
for the "End of item code" and a different number for your "End of form code."
PFS:File will convert the file, although somewhat slowly. Now you can start
AppleWorks, Make a New file for the Data Base, and Make a new file from a text

(ASCII) file. Enter the path name for the file you are about to import.
At the prompt, tell AppleWorks how many categories were in each PFS:File
record. Give the file you are creating a name and Press Return; AppleWorks
will create a database. A word of caution: if you are working with 5.25"
disks, you must split PFS files larger than 30K into smaller files.

Jim Luther's Pascal PFS Conversion Disk performs the conversion, but it has
some limitations: it takes data only from the first page of PFS:File form,
drops any categories after the 30th, and truncates any entries in a category
in excess of 78 characters.

The June 1986 issue of Call-A.P.P.L.E. contains another program by Wes Felty,
PFS:File to ProDOS ASCII Converter, which you can type yourself or download
from the A.P.P.L.E. Crate Bulletin Board.

A commercial program called Bridge converts Pascal PFS:File documents
to a DOS 3.3 DIF sequential text file, or to one formatted for DOS 3.3
AppleWriter II. It converts entire PFS:File forms without limitations by
the page or the form or the number or length of the categories. Once the
file is converted to standard DOS 3.3, you must bring it over to ProDOS with
Apple's ProDOS Utilities, System Utilities, or other conversion program. Sun
Microsystems, Inc., P. O. Box 1388, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33302, 305/486-6115.

Another Pascal PFS:File to ProDOS conversion method involves the ProFiler
program. There are two ProFiler utility programs used to convert PFS:File
records to ProFiler records. One program works with Pascal PFS:File records,
the other with ProDOS PFS:File records. You can batch process the conversion
from PFS by using an Exec file adapted for your own use from a public domain
diskette (No. 34) available from TAWUG, The AppleWorks Users Group, P. O. Box
24789, Denver, CO 80224-0869, or you can write to Don Lancaster c/o Computer
Shopper for a hardcopy of the program (include a self-addressed stamped
envelope). ProFiler is from PM Software, P. O. Box 1788, 17610 Beach
Boulevard, Suite 29, Huntington Beach CA 92647, 714/963-2221.
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