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FileShare & AppleShare: Setting Labels On Shared Files (4/93)

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TOPIC -----

I have had problems setting labels on shared files in the following situations:

- I logged on to a Personal File Sharing machine, selected a folder, changed the label (color), and closed the window. When I re-opened the window, the color had reverted to the original color.
- I tried doing the same thing with an AppleShare file server with the same result.
- I then tried this on a AppleShare file server with a folder I owned, thinking perhaps I was prohibited from changing the color of a folder I didn't own. I closed the window and re-opened it, the folder had reverted back to the original color.

DISCUSSION -----

The owner of a folder or volume controls the labels in the first level of that folder or volume. The bottom line: unless you own the folder that contains the folders you are trying to change the labels on, the changes won't remain. As long as a window is open, whatever labels are assigned will remain. When the window is closed, the labels revert to their previous state.

As an example, create a folder named A1, owned by A, that allows all privileges to users A, B, and C. Within the A1 folder users A, B, and C create folders A2, B2, and C2, respectively. Only user A can change the labels on folders A2, B2, and C2. All three users, A, B, and C have read write access to all three folders A2, B2, and C2. Let all three users create folders within A2, B2, and C2. Only user A will be able to change labels in folder A2, B in folder B2, and C in folder C2.

The confusion results from your expecting that, as owners of a folder you should be able to control the label of that folder. This is not the case.

This appears to hold true for both File Sharing and AppleShare. We don't

believe this is a problem because AppleShare 3.x requires System 7 but does not require System 7 on the client side. Since System 6.0.x does not support labels there isn't a compelling reason to have AppleShare update that information dynamically the way file or folder names are. Since View by Name, Data, and so on is supported by both System 6 and 7 it makes sense to maintain the view that the user selects at least to one level of depth. If you change the view in a window that is two levels down and you close all the windows the view will revert to the original. The overhead of keeping track of the views dynamically while multiple people are using the same folders would be too great. Obviously these attributes are kept locally and in a limited fashion.

This does not cause any data loss, but users may be disappointed if things do not work intuitively. Workarounds can be devised, such as setting the label on a folder locally, then copying the folder to the server, but we doubt the "cure" will be worth the effort in most cases.
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