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AppleShare 4.2.1: Questions and Answers (5/96)

Article Created: 13 October 1995
Article Reviewed/Updated: 30 May 1996

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TOPIC -----------------------------------------------------------
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This article provides a series of questions and answers about AppleShare 4.2.1.

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DISCUSSION ------------------------------------------------------
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Question: What is AppleShare?

Answer: AppleShare is high-performance, easy-to-use file and print sharing
software that allows networked Macintosh and Microsoft Windows software-based
computers to share files, applications, and printers.

Question: What is AppleShare 4.2.1?

Answer: AppleShare 4.2.1 is PowerPC native which supports NuBus-based Workgroup
Servers or Power Macintosh computers with classic AppleTalk, and PCI-based
Workgroup Servers or Power Macintosh computers with Open Transport 1.1. It
provides an average performance improvement over AppleShare 4.1 of 111% for file
transfers between clients and the server. However, much larger performance gains
(as high as 352%) are experienced in multi-user database applications. These are
applications where the database application runs on the client workstations and
the shared database file resides on the AppleShare server.

AppleShare 4.2.1 supports up to four network segments simultaneously through
Open Transport 1.1's multi-homing capabilities on PCI servers. AppleShare 4.2.1
also supports nearly ten times as many open files as AppleShare 4.1 (3000
instances of 346 unique files in 4.2 vs. 346 in 4.1) and increases the maximum
number of concurrent users from 150 to 250.

It also includes a simple-to-manage block cache architecture that dynamically
tunes itself for optimal performance. To set up the new cache, the administrator
simply allocates a block of memory for the Mac OS and any server utilities (like
Retrospect for nightly backups), and AppleShare 4.2.1 runs and caches data in
the remaining memory. AppleGuide support in 4.2.1 also assists unfamiliar users,
making it easier to:

• Set up Users & Groups
• Share volumes

- Set access privileges
- Configure printing

Question: How does AppleShare 4.2.1 differ from AppleShare 4.2?

Answer: AppleShare 4.2.1 adds support for multi-homing with Open Transport 1.1 on PCI-based servers. The AppleShare file server bundle comes with a version of the Apple Remote Access (ARA) Multiport server which allows dial in connections. Out of the box, you can enable two dial in connections on the server's printer and modem ports. AppleShare 4.2.1 includes COPS Inc's COPS Talk for Windows 95 users. As of 8 May 1996, COPS Talk is not shipping in the AppleShare package. An insert in the box provides an (800) number to call to order the software. AppleShare 4.2.1 also addresses problems with access privileges and modification dates in the previous version.

Question: What do customers gain by running AppleShare native on PowerPC?

Answer: AppleShare 4.2.1 is PowerPC native and completely optimized to take advantage of PowerPC performance and scalability, so users get the familiar ease-of-use of previous versions and dramatically improved performance.

Question: How is AppleShare 4.2.1 being distributed?

Answer: AppleShare 4.2.1 is distributed with PowerPC Workgroup Servers and as an upgrade for the installed base of AppleShare 4.x users.

Question: Is AppleShare 4.2.1 compatible with Open Transport?

Answer: AppleShare 4.2.1 is compatible with Open Transport 1.1, which includes many AppleShare server-specific features like support for multiple concurrent sessions and 100 MB Ethernet performance tuning. Apple has not certified AppleShare 4.2.1 and Open Transport on NuBus-based Power Macintosh computers and Workgroup Servers. Customers running AppleShare 4.2.1 on these systems should continue to use the "Classic" AppleTalk stack.

Question: What are the hardware requirements for AppleShare 4.2.1.

Answer: AppleShare 4.2.1 is designed and tested with PowerPC-based Workgroup Servers (WS) in mind, including both NuBus and PCI products. Therefore, AppleShare 4.2.1 is intended for the following Workgroup Servers:

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WS 6150 and WS6150/66        running at least Mac O/S 7.5.1
WS 8150 and WS8150/110       running at least Mac O/S 7.5.1
WS 9150 and WS9150/120       running at least Mac O/S 7.5.1
WS 7250/120                  running at least Mac O/S 7.5.3
WS 8550/132                  running at least Mac O/S 7.5.3
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Customers who purchased AppleShare 4.x when it was available as a stand alone

product may upgrade to AppleShare 4.2.1 and run AppleShare on the following systems and receive support from Apple:

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Power Macintosh 6100/60      running at least Mac O/S 7.5.1
Power Macintosh 6100/66      running at least Mac O/S 7.5.1
Power Macintosh 7100/66      running at least Mac O/S 7.5.1
Power Macintosh 7100/80      running at least Mac O/S 7.5.1
Power Macintosh 8100/80      running at least Mac O/S 7.5.1
Power Macintosh 8100/100     running at least Mac O/S 7.5.1
Power Macintosh 8100/110     running at least Mac O/S 7.5.1
Power Macintosh 7200/75      running at least Mac O/S 7.5.3
Power Macintosh 7200/90      running at least Mac O/S 7.5.3
Power Macintosh 7200/120     running at least Mac O/S 7.5.3
Power Macintosh 7500/100     running at least Mac O/S 7.5.3
Power Macintosh 8500/120     running at least Mac O/S 7.5.3
Power Macintosh 8500/132     running at least Mac O/S 7.5.3
Power Macintosh 9500/120     running at least Mac O/S 7.5.3
Power Macintosh 9500/132     running at least Mac O/S 7.5.3
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Question: Does AppleShare 4.2.1 require the AppleShare client software to be upgraded in order to experience the improved performance?

Answer: It is not necessary for customers to upgrade their AppleShare client to get the performance benefits of 4.2.1 on a server. The dramatic performance increases are due to additional server features like dynamic caching and PowerPC native code.

However, on a client workstation, if a customer is using AppleShare Workstation software prior to v3.6.1, Apple recommends that customers install the latest version of the AppleShare client software. AppleShare Workstation 3.6.2, when running with Mac OS System 7.5.1 or later, will significantly improve the performance of any AFP server on the client. Macintosh clients will notice greatly improved performance when copying large files in the Finder. AppleShare Workstation 3.6.2 in conjunction with System 7.5.3 allows users to set and change passwords with the Alias Manager.

Question: Can customers with AppleShare Pro, which runs on the Apple Workgroup Server (AWS) 95 with A/UX upgrade to AppleShare 4.2.1?

Answer: Yes. There is an upgrade path for AppleShare Pro customers. However, since it involves moving to a new hardware platform based on PowerPC technology, extra steps are required. Customers wishing to do this need to do three things.

1) Since AppleShare Pro did not use serial numbers, customers upgrading to AppleShare 4.2.1 need to get a unique serial number for each server being upgraded. Do this by calling 800-767-2775 ext 916. Proof of ownership will be required.

2) Purchase the AppleShare 4.2.1 upgrade kit(M4568Z/B) by calling 800-293-6617 ext 759 for $199. Proof of ownership will be required.

3) UNIX based applications that were running on the AWS 95 will no longer run on a Mac OS based server. Also, Apple recommends upgrading Macintosh applications to the native versions whenever possible. Customers moving from A/UX to Mac OS will want to plan this migration carefully.

Article Change History:
30 May 1996 - Updated for technical accuracy.
24 May 1996 - Updated for technical accuracy, and added Q & A pairs.
08 May 1996 - Added information about COPS Talk.

Keywords: supt

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19960531 08:19:30.00
Tech Info Library Article Number: 18744