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MAE: MS Word File Cannot Be Opened By Word For Windows (4/96)

Article Created: 11 July 1994
Article Reviewed/Updated: 9 April 1996

TOPIC --

I'm using Microsoft Word for Macintosh under MAE on an HP workstation with an
NFS server, and after saving a document I cannot open it on a PC with Word for
Windows. However, the same document can be opened by Word for Macintosh via NFS
Share. What's the problem?

DISCUSSION ---

MAE 2.0

The solution under MAE 2.0.x is to either start MAE with the -filedouble option,
or download the "asdtool" tool from www.mae.apple.com. This tool will separate
AppleSingle files into AppleDouble files, and vise versa.

MAE 1.0

As a workaround in MAE 1.0 use the environment variable, TBFILEFORMAT. Set it to
1 (one) BEFORE you launch MAE, this will change the default file format to
AppleDouble instead of AppleSingle. Below are more details.

We installed PC/TCP software on a PC and configured it to have NFS client
capability. We did a couple of tests regarding your problem with Microsoft Word
documents created under MAE. Here was our test environment:

HP-UX 9.0.3 NFS server
MAE 1.0 Macintosh Word 5.1a

Power Macintosh 8100 NFS/Share 1.3.5
Macintosh Word 5.1a

Gateway2000 Pentium Windows 3.1
PC/TCP 2.3 for DOS/Windows with NFS client feature built-in
Word for Windows 6.0

Here are the results, we did verify the symptom you encountered. The "FILE TYPE"
used when the Word document is first saved after creation is very important.
Under MAE if the file was saved as "Normal", it CANNOT be opened by Word for
Windows 6.0 on a PC. The "Normal" FILE TYPE saved by Macintosh Word 5.1a under

MAE is in AppleSingle file format and can't be recognized as a regular Word document by the Word for Windows application. This could be the problem you encountered. However, if a Word document under MAE is saved (with the FILE TYPE created) as "Text Only" or "Interchange Format (RTF)", it can be opened correctly by Word for Windows. Note that "Text Only" or "InterChange Format (RTF)" file types saved by Macintosh Word under MAE is in AppleDouble file format.

In summary, the problem is the MS Word document saved as the "Normal" file type under MAE is in AppleSingle file format, and Word for Windows cannot recognize AppleSingle file format. However, the Word document saved as a "Normal" file type in a NFS file system via Macintosh NFS/Share is an AppleDouble file format. This is why it can be opened by the Word for Windows application.

As a workaround set the environment variable, TBFILEFORMAT to 1 (one) BEFORE you launch MAE, this will change the default file format to AppleDouble instead of AppleSingle.

Article Change History:
09 Apr 1996 - Included MAE 2.0 workaround.
29 Jun 1995 - Corrected spelling.
20 Mar 1995 - Made minor corrections for clarity.

Keywords: supt

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19960410 08:21:11.00
Tech Info Library Article Number: 15798