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Excel Files: Macintosh, Windows, MAE, & Windows/UNIX (11/94)

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TOPIC -----

This article describes sharing Excel files among Macintosh, Windows, MAE, and Windows/UNIX.

DISCUSSION -----

If you sometimes need to move Excel spreadsheets among those different platforms, the multiple layers of emulation can get tricky. You can carry floppy disks between a Macintosh and a SPARCstation running MAE, share files between MAE and Wabi, and carry floppies to a PC running Windows.

To make Macintosh Excel recognize an Excel file created on Windows set the type/creator with a utility like some drag and drop auto typer, or ResEdit. Making Windows Excel recognize an Excel file created on Macintosh is harder. Macintosh Excel has a translator to open Windows Excel files, but there is no option to save in Windows Excel format. Also, Windows Excel lacks options to either open or to save in Macintosh Excel format. But Windows Excel can successfully read the Macintosh files if the first block of the file is deleted. To do this use the following UNIX command:

```
dd if=mac.xls of=win.xls skip=1
```

Other methods of moving files, like PC Exchange, may avoid the problem by automatically invoking the proper translators.

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