Wang and Macintosh: Document Transfer

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TOPIC --

This article describes different ways to transfer documents between Wang
and Macintosh Systems.

DISCUSSION ---

INTRODUCTION

The Macintosh can be connected to the Wang VS or OIS systems to provide two
basic functions: document transfer and translation and terminal emulation.

Document transfer involves the sending of files between the Wang and the
Mac. This process also involves translation -- that is, conversion of
formatting attributes (like boldfacing, centering, tabs, and underlining)
in the Wang documents to their equivalents in the Microsoft Word documents.

As for terminal emulation, the Macintosh can act just like a Wang 2110 VS
terminal as long as it is connected to an Enhanced Asynchronous Device
Controller (EADC) port on the Wang. This lets the user open a window, on
the Macintosh, which is MultiFinder compatible and looks just like a Wang
terminal screen. The Wang keyboard is mapped to the Macintosh keyboard,
with some Macintosh user interfaces (mouse, pull-down menus, and so on)
added for additional ease of use.

The following products provide 2110 terminal emulation: MacLink Plus/Wang
VS and VsCom/Macintosh.

Physical Connections

Connections between the Wang system and its dedicated terminals are made
via a Wang proprietary coaxial cable. Although this cable is also usable
by IBM-compatible PCs, it remains unusable by Macintosh computers.

To connect a Macintosh to the Wang system, use the RS-232 port on the
Macintosh side (which can be connected directly to an RS-232 cable if
within 50 feet of the Wang system, or via a modem if farther away).

On the Wang side, a number of ports are available:

- Asynchronous Device Controller (ADC): An 8- or 16- port RS-232 device
  designed for communication with Wang VS terminals.

- Enhanced Asynchronous Device Controller (EADC): Similar to the ADC,
  except that it also supports word processing.

- Telecommunications Input/Output Processor (TC-IOP): Provides limited
  access to Wang software applications, is less sophisticated.

- Multi-Line Telecommunications Controller (MLTC): Similar to the ADC,
  except that it is used on large Wang VS systems.

- Wang Asynchronous Controller System (WACS): Similar to the EADC, except
  that it is used on large Wang VS systems.

All these ports support most Wang functions, like communications with the
Wang system, file transfer and conversion, and so on, but only the EADC and
the WACS support Wang word processing on the Macintosh.

CONNECTIVITY SOFTWARE AVAILABLE

This section describes five transfer products (an asterisk indicates
terminal emulation capability):

- MacLink Plus/Wang VS* and MacLink Plus/Wang OIS

- VsCom/Macintosh*

- Converse

- Smart Kid

MacLink Plus/Wang VS

Strengths

- Two-way file transfer and translation between Wang WP and Microsoft Word
  on the Macintosh

- VS 2110 terminal emulation (supports all Wang characters in the ADC/EADC
  version)

- Bidirectional copy/paste between Macintosh and Wang

- Multiple document transfer and conversion

- Includes a full set of PC-to-Macintosh translators

- Also includes the Allegro Server/VS FeaturePack, which provides:

- Security subsystem to prevent unauthorized access to files

   - Document indexing subsystem to enable users to search for files on the
     basis of author, title, and other fields from the document summary
     (similar to the Wang summary)

   - Wang Office interface module that provides access to the mail and
     messaging functions in the Wang OFFICE. Note that it does not provide
     access to OFFICE's calendar and bulletin board capabilities.

Limitations

MacLink Plus/Wang VS does not support:

- Headers, footers, and footnotes during document conversion

- Background transfer/conversion of files

MacLink Plus/Wang OIS

Strengths

- MacLink Plus/Wang OIS transfers/converts files between Wang OIS and
  MS-Word on the Macintosh

- It includes a full set of PC-to-Macintosh translators.

Limitations

MacLink Plus/Wang OIS does not support:

- Headers, footers, and footnotes during document conversion

- Direct conversion to/from Wang WP Plus

- Background transfer/conversion of files

For details on MacLink Plus products, contact DataViz, Inc. You can find
contact information in the Third Party Company Directory folder in the Tech
Info Library.

VsCom/Macintosh

Strengths

- Provides basic document transfer/translation between Wang VS and
  Microsoft Word on the Macintosh: Supports both WP and WP Plus,

- Direct Wang Office interface: Simple one-step transfer of documents in
  and out of Wang Office mailboxes

- VS 2110 terminal emulation (supports all Wang characters)

- Bidirectional copy/paste between Macintosh and Wang

- Multiple document transfer and conversion

- Headers and footers supported in document conversion

Limitations

VsCom/Macintosh does not support:

- Background document transfer and conversion

- Footnote conversions

- No TC-IOP port version

For details on VsCom/Macintosh, contact M/H Group. You can find contact information in the Third Party Company Directory folder in the Tech Info Library.

Converse

Strengths

Converse provides simple document conversion and terminal emulation capabilities.

Limitations

Converse does not support:

- Multiple document transfer and conversion capability

- Terminal emulation

- Background transfer and conversion of documents

For details on VsCom/Macintosh, contact MacSoft. You can find contact information in the Third Party Company Directory folder in the Tech Info Library.

Smart Kid

Strengths

- Permits almost 100 percent file conversion including headers, footers,
  and footnotes.

- Very versatile: Works with a variety of systems and word processing
  formats.

- Toll-free telephone support.

Limitations

- Requires a Wang operator to send or receive files.

- Does not support background transfer and conversion of documents.

Comments

Smart Kid is a hardware and software product that handles file conversion between Wang VS or Wang OIS and a host of other computer systems, including Macintosh, IBM Displaywriter, Digital VAX, Xerox Memorywriter, and NBI OASys. It is a more expensive option, but, because of its sophisticated file conversion capabilities, it is sometimes chosen by companies that use long, heavily formatted documents.

For details on VsCom/Macintosh, contact MacSoft. You can find contact information in the Third Party Company Directory folder in the Tech Info Library.

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