



# Tech Info Library

## AOCE: Personal Catalogs (10/93)

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TOPIC -----

This article describes Personal Catalogs of Apple Open Collaborative Environment (AOCE).

DISCUSSION -----

There are times when users may find it more convenient to store catalog items locally instead of on a server. For this situation, PowerTalk includes personal catalogs. A personal catalog can contain any record that can be stored in an PowerShare Catalog Server or available through a Catalog Service Access Module. Users can also create new records specifically for a personal catalog.

When PowerTalk is installed, one personal catalog is created and placed in the Apple menu. Users can have more than one personal catalog on a workstation. Personal catalogs can be stored on any volume.

Personal catalogs could be used to gather collections of similar records. For example, one personal catalog could contain the addresses of everyone associated with a particular project. Another personal catalog could be an index to a music collection. Personal catalogs can hold the same types of information as a regular PowerShare Catalog with the advantage that users can create and edit personal catalogs at will.

Unlike PowerShare Catalog Server catalogs or catalog services accessible through a Catalog Service Access Module which have a hierarchical structure, personal catalogs have a flat structure. They are simple collections of records.

Personal catalogs, like other AOCE Catalogs, support collections of user records called groups. To create a group, use the 'Create Group' menu item. To add items to a group, drag the record from the personal catalog into the group's folder.

To add a record to a personal catalog from a PowerShare Catalog or other Catalog service, drag the PowerShare Catalog entry into the personal catalog window. Data stored in the catalog record will be copied to the personal catalog.

There is no automatic synchronization of records in a personal catalog with the corresponding records in a PowerShare Catalog. To avoid synchronization problems, it is possible to create aliases to the PowerShare Catalog record and place the aliases into the PowerShare Catalog. The disadvantage of this approach is that the record is no longer available if the system cannot communicate with the PowerShare Catalog. PowerBook users, especially, should avoid this approach.

Personal catalogs can also contain aliases to the original records. Personal catalogs cannot contain other personal catalogs.

#### Creating New personal catalogs

To create a new personal catalog, open the Catalogs windows and select 'New Personal Catalog' from the Catalogs menu. There is no limit on the number of personal catalogs a user can access. However, the preferred Personal Catalog comes up automatically in the Catalog Addressing Panel. Select which personal catalog is the preferred Personal Catalog by using the Get Info window.

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