Macintosh Access to Btrieve on Netware

Article Created: 15 August 1991
Article Last Reviewed:
Article Last Updated:

TOPIC ---

We have a Novell network (currently upgrading to 3.11) using SoftPC,
MagicPC and Btrieve. We would like to use applications that are resident
on the Novell server. What can we use to access Btrieve files created in
DOS format from a Macintosh? Can we run applications? Will there be a
performance penalty?

DISCUSSION --

Accessing Btrieve files from a Macintosh workstation cannot be done
directly from the Macintosh OS as we don't know of an implementation of
Btrieve that is Macintosh OS compatible. There are other B-tree library
solutions like c-tree Plus from FairCom, but they are not file-compatible
with Btrieve. There are, however, several solutions for executing DOS
programs on a Macintosh, and these could be those same Btrieve-based
applications used on the PCs.

The classic solutions for executing DOS applications on a Macintosh are
SoftPC (from Insignia Solutions, Inc.) or a DOS coprocessor card. The
coprocessor cards, such as the Orange Micro Mac286 or Mac386, are PCs on a
card that plug into a Macintosh and are accessed via a Macintosh program.
These hardware solutions tend to be faster, but are also much more
expensive.

A third and more recent solution is Novell's Netware Access Server. This
product installs on the Netware server and allows up to 16 simultaneous
virtual DOS sessions to be distributed over the network to workstations.
The workstations run client software that provides the DOS session in a
Macintosh window. Since you already have a Netware server installed, this
might be the way to go.

Performance of each solution depends on the application. The Mac386 card
is likely to give the best performance, but this isn't very cost effective
if a number of users need them. The performance potential of the Novell
solution is good, especially if the Btrieve files are located on the
Netware server with the DOS session server. The only network traffic is

for user input and screen updates. With a database application, this may
even outperform the DOS coprocessor cards.

We recommend that you first try the PC applications with SoftPC, since
you already have that. If the performance isn't to your liking, you may
wish to try another solution. Either way, it sounds like you're already
very close.

On AppleLink, you can find contact information for the various vendors by
clicking the Tech Info Library's 'Library Index' button to view the folder
structure. An alphabetic listing of vendors is in the Third Party Company
Directory folder.
Copyright 1991 Apple Computer, Inc.

Keywords: <None>

===

This information is from the Apple Technical Information Library.

19960215 11:05:19.00

Tech Info Library Article Number: 8572