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Performa: DOS Compatibility and PC Exchange (3/94)

Article Created: 16 June 1993

Article Reviewed/Updated: 25 March 1994

TOPIC -----

I recently purchased a Macintosh Performa and I understand it is DOS compatible. Please explain the DOS compatibility part.

DISCUSSION -----

The Performa 430 comes with a software "control panel" called PC Exchange. This control panel enables the Performa to recognize DOS disks when they're inserted into the computer. While this alone does not allow you to run DOS programs on your Performa, it does allow you to insert a DOS formatted disk into the Performa and read the data on the disk. This function is automatic; you don't have to do anything else.

As an example, let's say you have created a WordPerfect document on your IBM PC (or compatible) at work, and you want to bring it home. All you need to do is copy the document (no need to copy the entire WordPerfect application) to a 3.5-inch DOS-formatted floppy disk. When you insert the DOS formatted disk into your Performa computer, the disk icon appears on your desktop with the letters PC on it. You can then double-click the disk icon, and a window opens showing you the WordPerfect document. You can then open the document from any Macintosh program that reads WordPerfect PC files.

If your desire is to run DOS applications on your Macintosh, you can purchase an additional program like SoftPC. For more information, search the Apple Tech Info Library using "SoftPC" as your search string.

Article Change History:

25 March 1994 - Reviewed and updated.

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Keywords: kwindows,supt

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19960215 11:05:19.00

Tech Info Library Article Number: 12404