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AOCE Brief Description (7/93)

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TOPIC ---

This article provides a brief describes of the Apple Open Collaboration
Environment (AOCE).

DISCUSSION --

With AOCE, collaboration services are integrated into the System 7
operating system, enabling users to consolidate many forms of electronic
correspondence common today such as voice mail, electronic mail, and faxes.
In addition, third-party developers will be able to build on AOCE's
foundation to create and deliver new kinds of applications for integrated
personal communications, team productivity, and affordable workflow
systems, such as forms processing.

The first two versions of AOCE based software products, one that will
reside on an individual end user's desktop Macintosh or Apple PowerBook,
and one that provides additional server-based collaboration services for
AppleTalk networks. The end-user product, PowerTalk, includes collaboration
services for the individual, such as a universal mailbox for integrated
electronic correspondence, an easy drag-and-drop method of sending
documents, a rich catalog capability for easy access to all kinds of
information, and a digital signature capability, which enables electronic
approval of documents.

The server product, PowerShare Collaboration Servers, provides services for
small or large groups of PowerTalk users. These services include a shared
store-and-forward facility for electronic messaging, server-based
authentication and privacy for secure network communications, and
centralized administration of shared catalogs that are distributed across
multiserver networks for optimal performance. PowerShare catalogs that are
distributed across multiple servers can be replicated and synchronized for
reliability.

The PowerTalk and PowerShare products are based on AOCE's architecture,
which has open application programming interfaces (APIs) so that
third-party developers can easily take advantage of AOCE services from
within their products. In addition, Apple and third-party developers can
create software modules that provide plug-and-play access from AOCE based
applications to existing and future messaging and directory services.

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