AppleScript Scripter's Kit: Description (12/93)

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TOPIC ---

The AppleScript Scripter's Kit allows integrating off-the-shelf
applications across desktops and networks for increased productivity.

DISCUSSION ---

The AppleScript Scripter's Kit is a software tool that enables
end-users to integrate elements of commercial Macintosh software
applications across desktops and networks. Since April 1993,
AppleScript has been available as a software developer's kit for
commercial software developers.

The AppleScript scripting language is integrated into the Macintosh
operating system and conforms to Apple's cross-platform Open Scripting
Architecture (OSA) standard. Developed in cooperation with third-party
developers, the OSA provides a standard way for mainstream applications
to interact with any scripting system. OpenDoc is a compound document
architecture that enables users to create compound, customizable
documents.

AppleScript is an element of Apple's long-term strategy to automate the
Macintosh computing environment, improve application interaction and
provide a foundation technology for OpenDoc. It builds on System 7 and
the cross-platform Open Scripting Architecture (OSA), paving the way
toward OpenDoc. The AppleScript Scripter's Kit, targeted at solution
providers and end users, contains:

• AppleScript 1.1, an enhanced version of Apple's scripting language.

• An enhanced script editor that automatically generates and edits
  scripts based on user's actions.

• An interface processor from Software Designs Unlimited, Inc. that
  enables building custom interfaces for scripts.

• Support for multiple dialects that provides for scripting in
  non-English languages (French and Japanese are included).

• A redistribution license for AppleScript system software and

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   interface processor runtime code.
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Automation Features

The AppleScript scripting language enables users to tightly integrate
the functionality of standard, off-the-shelf applications as well as
in-house, enterprise-wide programs to build customized scripts that
automate business processes and increase productivity.

For example, with AppleScript, a sales department can automatically
generate a weekly report that invokes functions from a series of
scriptable applications such as Microsoft Excel, FileMaker Pro and
QuarkXPress. AppleScript can gather data from one application,
process it in another, and present it in a third automatically at a
given time or based on an event, locally or over a network. Before
AppleScript, these time-consuming functions needed to be performed
manually by launching and working directly in each individual
application.

"Scriptable" Applications

Since the AppleScript Software Developer's Kit was introduced in April
1993, over 80 independent software vendors (ISVs) are shipping
AppleScript-aware applications. ISVs that provide scriptable
applications include: Aldus, Beyond, Claris, Great Plains, Microsoft,
Quark, Symantec, UserLand and WordPerfect among others. AppleScript
helps ISVs reduce development time and costs by removing the need to
create a proprietary scripting language.

How the Software Developer's Kit Differs

The AppleScript Developer's Kit for commercial developers includes the
AppleScript Scripter's Kit plus a pre-release version of the scriptable
Finder and development tools and a CD-ROM with additional
documentation, sample code, and scripts. Apple also licenses the
AppleScript runtime software and the script editor to commercial
developers for shipment with their products.

Requirements

The AppleScript kits require System 7.0 or later and applications that
are scriptable or recordable according to Apple's Open Scripting
Architecture.

Compatibility

Compiled scripts created with AppleScript 1.0 may not run under
AppleScript 1.1. Scripters will either need to edit the compiled
scripts or recompile scripts from their original text form under
version 1.1.

Availability

Here are the order numbers for the AppleScript kits: AppleScript
Scripter's Kit 1.1 (M1730LL/A) AppleScript Software Development Toolkit
1.1 (R0175LL/B)   AppleScript Software Development
Toolkit 1.1 Upgrade (R0557LL/A)

Volume purchases of site licenses are available for the AppleScript
Scripter's Kit through the Apple volume licensing program. You can
order the kit through software resellers, Apple authorized resellers
and APDA -- Apple's source for developer tools. Advanced scripting
support is available for a fee by calling (800) 950-2442.

AppleScript 1.0 is bundled with Quadra AV computers and comes as an
enabling technology of System 7 Pro. Customers who own either or both
of these products must purchase the AppleScript Scripter's Kit 1.1 in
order to acquire AppleScript 1.1.
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