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At Ease 3.0.1 Updater: Read Me (12/95)

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TOPIC -----

This article contains the ReadMe from the At Ease for Workgroups 3.0.1 Updater posted online.

DISCUSSION -----

Important Information about At Ease for Workgroups 3.0.1 Updater

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The At Ease 3.0.1 Updater will update your current version of At Ease for Workgroups 3.0 to the latest version, 3.0.1. The changes in version 3.0.1 include enhancements for the networking environment and bug fixes. A detailed list of changes appears at the end of this document.

Requirements for Updating

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Version 3.0 Already Installed

You can only use the Updater application on a workstation that has version 3.0 installed. The Updater will not run if you have an older version (2.x or a lower number) installed. If you have an earlier version of At Ease for Workgroups, you should first update it to version 3.0, then use the Updater.

Workgroup Version of At Ease

Any workstation you update with the Updater must have At Ease for Workgroups installed. You should not use this Updater to update a workstation that has the non-workgroup version of At Ease installed. The updated software has not been tested with the non-workgroup version, and most changes in version 3.0.1 involve network enhancements that will not be used in the non-workgroup version.

In addition, the Updater application will not update the version of At Ease Setup (the administration program) for the non-workgroup product. If you use the Updater on a non-workgroup workstation, you may not be able to run your existing At Ease Setup (non-workgroups) application on that workstation.

Update Some or All Workstations

The databases used by At Ease 3.0 and 3.0.1 are fully compatible. That means you can update some At Ease workstations on the network and not update others. To benefit from all the enhancements in version 3.0.1, however, you should update all of the workstations used by At Ease.

Using an AppleShare Server for At Ease

If your At Ease server is an AppleShare volume, all workstations must use version 3.0 (or 3.0.1). Any workstation that has an older version of At Ease will get a message reporting that the At Ease Preferences file is bad when it tries to access the server.

Updating Procedure

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Installation Options

There are two ways of updating one or more machines using At Ease for Workgroups—by using the Updater's floppy disk on each workstation or by installing the updated software over the network.

Updating from the Floppy Disk

Step 1

Turn off At Ease on each workstation that you are updating. (See the user's manual for instructions, if necessary.)

Step 2

Insert the Updater disk.

Step 3

Open the At Ease 3.0.1 Updater application.

Step 4

Click Begin in the greeting that appears.

Step 5

If the Updater cannot find a file it needs to update, a message appears asks you to locate that file. (If you cannot find the file, click Skip to cancel the update.)

Step 6

Locate the missing file and repeat the update procedure.

Updating Over the Network

Step 1

Copy the Updater application to an AppleShare server volume to which your workstations have access.

Step 2

Make sure the application is locked. (Select the Updater's icon, choose Get Info from the File menu, then click to place an X in the box labeled "Locked.")

Step 3

Turn off At Ease on each workstation you are updating.

Tip: Before updating any workstations on the network, you may want to turn At Ease off on machines you will be updating by using the Update Computers feature. Then, after you have updated your At Ease machines, you can turn At Ease on by using this same feature. (See the user's manual for instructions, if necessary.)

Note: After turning At Ease off, it is necessary to quit the At Ease setup application before using the update computer feature.

Step 4

Mount the server volume that contains the Updater application.

Step 5

Open the Updater application.

Step 6

Click Begin in the greeting that appears.

Files the Updater Needs to Locate

In most cases, the Updater will attempt to locate and update the At Ease and At Ease Startup files automatically. If it cannot find either of these files, it will ask you for the location of the missing file. If you cannot find these files, you can click the Skip button to stop the update, leaving your files as version 3.0.

Some administrators remove the administration program on certain workstations. For this reason, the Updater will display a message asking you to locate the setup program on your disk. If you cannot locate the program, click the skip button to bypass this request.

Use an Updated Copy of the Administration Program

Be sure to update the copy of At Ease Setup you use to administer At Ease to version 3.0.1. You should also remove any non-updated copies of this program from your hard disk (or disks). Do not leave multiple copies of the setup program on the workstations, because you may inadvertently open an old version of this program.

New Desktop Printer Extension

The Updater disk includes an Apple Extras folder. This folder contains a new version of the Desktop Printer Extension that fixes some problems that may occur when using the restricted Finder mode in At Ease.

The Desktop Printer Extension is used by printer drivers for some of the newest printers. You only need to install this extension (version 1.03) if you are using an earlier version of it. If the Desktop Printer Extension is not already in the Extensions folder inside your System Folder, do not install it. (Installing this extension will do nothing on computers that are not already using it, but it will occupy a small amount of memory.)

To install the extension:

Step 1

Open the Apple Extras folder on the Updater disk.

Step 2

Drag the Desktop Printer Extension icon to the System Folder on your hard disk.

Step 3

Click OK each time a message appears.

Changes in Version 3.0.1

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Launching Applications from Other Applications

Normally, for security reasons, At Ease will not allow applications to start, or sublaunch, other applications. You can allow users to sublaunch applications in At Ease in one of two ways: (a) by installing the sublaunched application in the user's setup; or (b) by using the Application Preferences command (in the Options menu) in At Ease Setup and putting an X in the box labeled "Can be launched by other applications" for each sublaunched application. Unfortunately, this process can be confusing.

Version 3.0.1 simplifies this procedure by providing one way to allow sublaunching for all applications. The User Settings dialog box (which you open by choosing User Settings in the Security menu) now contains a checkbox labeled "Always permit sublaunches." When this checkbox is selected, At Ease always allows applications to start other applications. (This setting takes precedence over any setting in the Application Preferences dialog box.)

By checking this option, an administrator does not have to worry about selecting individual applications for sublaunching. The checkbox can be best thought of as a "compatibility mode" feature that allows many applications to work better.

Log-in Procedure

To improve the log-in speed, At Ease no longer saves the panel or page information. Thus, when a user logs back into the panels environment, she or he will always be brought to the first page of the "brown" panel.

At Ease Setup Changes

When At Ease Setup starts up, it now checks the internal databases. This check can take a few seconds (when no users are logged in to the At Ease server) to almost a minute (on slow networks, when users are already logged into At Ease). A message advises you that this check is taking place.

Clarifications

Using Kid Pix Studio (Correction to Read Me for At Ease 3.0)

In the Read Me file for At Ease 3.0, the section titled "At Ease for Workgroups 3.0 and Kid Pix Studio" explains how to use At Ease 3.0 with Kid Pix Studio. The information for setting up subprograms with the Application Preferences command contains an error for the file "KPS 5." The file creator for "KPS 5" should be "Kîd5," not "Kîd4."

Note: The "î" character is generated by first typing Option-i, then immediately typing "i."

CD-ROMs and At Ease

An administrator can selectively allow CD-ROMs to be used on a workstation. This feature applies only to discs that can be loaded into the CD-ROM drive of the user's computer. It does not apply to discs in CD-ROM drives that are connected to an AppleShare file server. These drive appear to At Ease as AppleShare volumes, not CD-ROM drives.

Documents Created by Approved Applications

Documents that are available to users may be opened if the application that created the document is on the "approved" list in At Ease. The software creates this list by searching locations to which the users of a setup have access, including the setup folder, the Apple Menu Items folder, the Control Panels folder, and the Startup Items folder. Folders are searched only if the users of the setup have access to them.

If any documents (or stationery pads) exist in those locations, then the program assumes that the application that created them is also approved. For example, if the Apple Menu Items folder contains a SimpleText stationery pad, and users of that setup have access to "other items" in the Apple menu, those users will be able to open any SimpleText documents, no matter where the documents are located. This is true for both panels and for the restricted Finder.

Server Mounting in At Ease

The administrator can select whether users of a particular setup can either (a) start up with the last server volumes used or (b) use the Chooser's marked startup volumes instead. The program permits only one of these options for a given setup.

This feature can be set in At Ease Setup (Workgroups) by selecting a setup and

then putting an X in the box labeled "Always remember the user's last-used AppleShare logins." When the checkbox is selected, any AppleShare volumes mounted at log-out will be remembered by At Ease and remounted the next time the user logs in. When the checkbox is not selected, any server volumes that were set in the Chooser to connect at startup will mount with the same privileges as were set with the Chooser. Because this feature operates on a user-by-user basis, the setting must always be the same for any user who belongs to multiple setups.

If a server has volumes (such as a CD-ROM drive) to which you want users to have access when they log in, you should leave the "remember" checkbox unselected and use the Chooser to set up the volumes to be mounted on each workstation. You must do this on each computer, because the AppleShare information is stored in the system folder of the workstation and not on the server volume.

Disk Security

The disk security in At Ease prevents users from starting up a workstation from a floppy disk and accessing the startup hard disk. This feature was introduced in At Ease 2.0; in Version 3.0, it is a box labeled "Lock Startup Volume" in the User Settings dialog box.

If At Ease detects that the security option cannot be used on a workstation, it dims the menu command. The two primary reasons why the Lock Startup Volume option cannot be used are:

- Unknown hard disk driver

If you have reformatted your startup disk with a non-Apple hard disk driver, the disk security option may not work with that driver. If the Lock Startup Volume checkbox is dimmed, please contact the driver software manufacturer to see if that disk driver is compatible with this At Ease feature.

- Non-partitioned IDE drives

Some Macintosh computer models use a hard disk drive mechanism called IDE (or ATA) for the startup disk. (Computers that use this drive type include the Power Macintosh 5200, 5300, and 6200, and the Macintosh PowerBook models 150, 190, and 5300.)

The security in At Ease requires that the startup hard disk drives are partitioned. All SCSI hard drives are partitioned at the factory, and in the future, the IDE drives will be partitioned. But for current Macintosh models with IDE drives that are not partitioned, the disk security will work only if the IDE drive is reformatted using a partitioned driver. One program that can partition these drives is Drive7, from Casa Blanca Works. (The IDE hard drive must be reformatted in order to partition it. You cannot just update the driver on the disk.)

At Ease and File Sharing

Turning on file sharing on a computer using At Ease 3.0 or 3.0.1 is not recommended. At Ease attempts to turn off file sharing when a restricted Finder

user starts up. You should be sure that file sharing is turned off (in the Sharing Setup control panel).

Maximum Connected Users on an At Ease Server

Because At Ease can open up to four files on the server for each machine that is in the login screen, it is possible that some versions of AppleShare will not allow as many machines to connect as it may indicate in the AppleShare Admin File Server Preferences dialog. Version 4.2 of AppleShare should eliminate this restriction.

Bypassing At Ease at Startup on Certain Power Macintoshes

Certain newer Macintoshes that use System 7.5.2 may allow the user to bypass At Ease by holding down the shift key at startup time. This problem has been fixed in System 7.5.3, but an easy workaround for the time being is to turn on the "Don't allow shift key at startup to disable extensions" checkbox in the setup application. You may need to do this on each machine that is having the problem.

Incompatible System Extensions or Control Panels

Sometimes incompatible system extensions or control panels can cause software problems. Restart while holding down the Shift key to temporarily turn off all system extensions.

If At Ease works normally after you do this, use the Extensions Manager control panel to turn off individual extensions and control panels. For detailed instructions, see the "Setting Options" topic of Macintosh Guide, available in the Guide menu.

If At Ease performs better when a particular extension or control panel is turned off, contact the software's manufacturer for information or an upgrade.

Users with Multiple Setups

If a user belongs to enough setups (specifically where the total length of the setups' names, plus 1 for each setup, exceeds 154 characters), other At Ease users may experience a system crash when logging in to At Ease. To correct this problem, you should shorten the names of the setups or reduce the number of setups to which this user belongs.

Major Problems Corrected In Version 3.0.1

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Users Visible After Update from Version 2.x

When users update from version 2.x to version 3.0, sometimes users that were already in At Ease did not show up in the setup application. The resulting display would show setups, but no users. Users should now appear after the automatic update from 2.x to this version (3.0.1).

No Report of Damaged Preferences File at Log-in

On certain network systems (especially if workstations are not turned off periodically), a message indicating that the application preferences may be damaged appeared when a workstation logged in—even though other computers would be working properly. Restarting the server would usually clear up this problem. This problem has been fixed in version 3.0.1.

Faster Logging In or Out on Large Systems

In server-based At Ease labs with many installed users, workstations would take an excessively long period of time to log in or out. In version 3.0.1, the log-in and log-out time has been lessened for very large networks.

Documents Panel Remains Visible

When a user was logged in, a message occasionally reported that the server had been disconnected. The documents panel would disappear and not reappear, even though the server volume was not actually disconnected. This problem has been corrected.

Setup Application Correctly Recognizes Setups

The problem in which the setup application interpreted one or more setups as locked (so that they could not be modified by the administrator) has been corrected.

Virex Incompatibility Corrected

The Virex application was not compatible with At Ease 3.0. If both were installed, the system would cause a crash at startup. This problem has been corrected.

Items in the Apple Menu Remain Visible

Occasionally some aliases in the Apple menu were deleted when a restricted Finder user returned to the log-in screen. This problem has been corrected.

Servers Mount Correctly

A problem that sometimes prevented server volumes selected in the Chooser from mounting when a user logged in has been corrected. (This feature only works if the user's setup has the "Always remember the user's last-used AppleShare logins" turned off. See the user's manual for instructions.)

Import Users Function Works Correctly

A number of changes were made to the import users function, including correcting a problem that prevented cancellation of importing when many errors occurred.

Middle-Level Administration

Middle-level administrators can now add users to setups that they own.

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