



# Tech Info Library

## At Ease: Trouble When Sharing a Floppy Disk? (12/95)

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TOPIC -----

I have my At Ease lab set up so two students store their documents on one floppy disk.

The problem I am encountering is the first student will access his documents on the disk, eject it and hand it to the second student to access his documents on another workstation. When the first student gets the disk back, the computer does not recognize the disk. It displays the message: "Please insert the Disk named 'Disk Name'" even though that is the disk that is in the floppy drive. What is wrong?

DISCUSSION -----

The problem you are encountering is not related to At Ease, but the way the Finder handles floppy disk operations.

When a disk is ejected from your computer, you will notice an unhighlighted disk image remains on the desktop. This is the Finder retaining the disk's contents in RAM. When the disk is inserted into another computer, information about the floppy disk called the checksum value is changed. When the disk is returned to the first computer, the operating system, does not recognize it as being the disk stored in RAM because of the different checksum value.

If you drag the disk image to the Trash before taking it to the second computer, the disk information is not saved in RAM, the unhighlighted image does not stay on the desktop, and when you return the disk to the first computer it mounts and is recognized. The problem with this workaround is if a file on the disk is still in use, you cannot drag the disk to the Trash.

At Ease handles ejected disks as if they are ejected not trashed and thus retains the disk information causing the problem you are experiencing with students sharing the same disk. There are two options for you to resolve this.

1. The best solution is to provide each student with their own floppy disk. If two students share disks, they both have access to the other student's work, which is usually not desirable anyway.

2. If student's accessing each other's work is not a concern, and you have hard drive storage space, setup At Ease so the students save to the Shared Folder on

the hard drive or At Ease disk and avoid using floppies entirely. Follow these steps to setup a Shared Folder:

Step 1

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Open the At Ease Setup program.

Step 2

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Double-click the Setup you want to modify.

Step 3

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Click the Locations icon (it looks like a floppy disk) to access the Locations panel.

Step 4

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In the "Store user documents on:" section, click to select "Setup location volume"

Click to select "Allow access to shared folder"

Step 5

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Click "OK".

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