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KanjiTalk: Running U.S. Applications

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Article Change History

09/16/92 - UPDATED

- To clarify how to mix English and Kanji applications.
- To make it clear that Macintosh hardware is generic.

TOPIC -----

Can any Macintosh operating system version be mixed with any application on a Kanji Macintosh? For example, could while running U.S. System 6.0.x with Kanji fonts, could I run the English versions of MacWrite II and PageMaker and print in Kanji on a Kanji LaserWriter?

DISCUSSION -----

Sometimes, you can successfully run a "U.S." application with KanjiTalk (and have a Kanji script appear in the data space and print in a Kanji script to a LaserWriter IINTX-J). However, if it hasn't been localized properly, you may encounter many more problems (and these of a possibly more serious nature) compared to mixing and matching applications and operating systems localized for other countries. Most English applications don't support the 2-byte character set. Exceptions exist with applications like Excel or WordPerfect.

A well-mannered U.S. application that uses the Script Manager (which makes it possible for it to support non-Roman scripts: Arabic, Hebrew, Japanese, and Chinese) may be functional (with minor incompatibilities) or usable (with somewhat minor inconveniences). Some likely incompatibilities include text-positioning problems requiring you to press the backspace key twice, incorrect date and time formats, different numerical and character delimiters, and so on. (Remember: Kanji uses a 2-byte-wide word.) With other less-compatible applications, serious system bombs may occur at any time, including when changing font parameters or printing a PostScript font.

Generally, you may have fewer problems using graphic-oriented packages than text-oriented packages.

You can use any operating system on a any Macintosh, keyboard differences aside.

Although you can usually use a non-U.S. (or other) word processor with the U.S. Macintosh OS, or vice-versa, we do not recommend using non-Kanji applications with the Kanji OS, or vice-versa.

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