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Macintosh: Troubleshooting Error -42 tmfoErr (4/94)

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TOPIC -----

My Macintosh keeps getting the "Error in printing this document -42". I'm using background printing under MultiFinder printing a Microsoft Works document.

DISCUSSION -----

Error -42 is tmfoErr, or a "too many files open" error. You might have reached the default maximum number of files that can be open at any one time.

During our testing of Microsoft Excel, when we reached the maximum number of open files allowed on our system (40), we couldn't create a print job nor open any other files. We got a variety of error messages: Print Monitor error, "file is damaged" error, or a Print Manager error, and "Error Printing on LaserWriter (driver version) you are using". Other programs that we tried to open trapped the system error and reported it differently.

Many programs open numerous files when launching -- 4th Dimension and Suitcase are two examples -- so you might want to investigate what you have open at the time of the error if this scenario fits.

If you're NOT encountering the maximum number of open files limit, you might have a directory problem. Try running Disk First Aid (or a similar program), or reinitialize and reinstall the software on the hard disk to see if this corrects the problem.

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Support Information Services

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