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## Altos Files: How to Transfer them to/from a Macintosh

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TOPIC -----

A customer wants to transfer (word processing) files from an Altos, running Altos Office Management System, to a Macintosh for page composition.

DISCUSSION -----

The Altos Office Management System runs under the Xenix operating system, Microsoft's variation on UNIX. Xenix and UNIX store all data and applications in the same type of file. This file type may contain any ASCII value from 0 to 255. If the word processor can save a plain ASCII text file, Macintosh can accept the file with little work. However, if the word processor only creates files that also contain Control, Escape, or extended characters, these additional characters need to be removed before Macintosh can make use of the data in the file.

If the file does contain Control, Escape, or extended characters, a filter or translation program is needed to extract the plain text characters stored in the file. This can be accomplished on the Altos side or the Macintosh side. On the Xenix side, "sed" (the stream editor) can be used to change or eliminate unwanted characters. Also, on Xenix, the "strings" command can be used to extract only printable ASCII characters from a file. On the Macintosh side, utilities, like Vantage (McSink), can strip unwanted control characters from the file.

Moving either of these files to the Macintosh is relatively simple. Using a serial connection (direct serial port-to-serial port or two modems), the file can be moved with a standard file transfer protocol, like Kermit. You can also have Xenix "stream" or "print" the file to a serial port. If the Macintosh is set up to capture the data coming from the Altos serial port, the captured data can then be copied and pasted from the capture buffer. A capture buffer is provided in MacTerminal by selecting the Record Lines Off Top under the Commands menu.

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