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MacTCP: How It Uses FTP Address to Connect (9/95)

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TOPIC -----

I am beginning to use MacTCP and some Internet software for the first time. I have noticed that many times I type a hostname and do not connect to the server I intended to.

DISCUSSION -----

When you ask MacTCP to connect to a hostname, several steps occur before MacTCP connects.

If the Name is "Fully Qualified"
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MacTCP checks the hostname for a period. If the hostname ends in a period, MacTCP looks up exactly what was typed. This applies to names of any length. The default domain in MacTCP is ignored.

Examples

- If you ftp to ftp.info.apple.com, MacTCP always connects you to ftp.info.apple.com. (since it ends in a period).
- If you ftp to ftp. MacTCP looks for ftp. (it also ends in a period).

If the Name is "Partially Qualified"
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If the name typed is longer than one word (separated by periods), MacTCP connects to whatever was typed. The default domain in MacTCP is ignored.

Examples

- If you type ftp.info.apple.com, MacTCP looks for ftp.info.apple.com.
- If your default domain is apple.com and you type ftp.info, MacTCP ignores the domain and looks for ftp.info.

NOTE: Most Macintosh users expect this behavior, but it is important to remember

that other TCP/IP software (UNIX, Open Transport, DOS software) may behave differently. Ideally, the second example would have resulted in a lookup for ftp.info.apple.com.

If the Name is Just a Hostname
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If the name is one word, then add the "default domain" from the MacTCP control panel.

Example

- If your domain is info.apple.com and you type ftp, MacTCP looks for ftp.info.apple.com.
- If the hosts file or domain name servers have information on the host and the host is working, you should connect to the desired machine.

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