QuickDraw GX: Repair Utils Show Resource Fork Error (2/95)

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TOPIC ---

Some disk repair utility programs are reporting that there is a problem with the
QuickDraw GX extension's resource fork. Norton Utilities is reporting this
problem on numerous CPUs here in Austin, but we have not noticed any decrease in
performance.

The disk repair programs report it is a problem that cannot be fixed. Norton
indicates that it is a serious error. Customers running disk repair utilities
will be alerted to the problem. What is causing this error to be reported?

Here are sample excerpts from Norton Utilities 3.0 and Public Utilities
reports:

Norton Utilities 3.0 Disk Repair Report

Serious errors were found.
Scan Catalog
An error was found in a file record in the catalog b-tree.
The resource fork for the file, "QuickDraw™ GX", has an incorrect physical
length. (node 192, record 1) (5,6,16)
Node #192, Record Offset 1
Norton Utilities is unable to fix this problem.

Public Utilities 1.0.1 Disk Repair Report

Disk: Hard Disk
Wednesday, August 31, 1994, 11:36:44 AM
No serious errors were found.
Some errors were fixed.
System Folder
The following files in your System Folder have damaged resource forks.
Hard Disk:System Folder:Extensions:QuickDraw™ GX
Public Utilities is unable to fix this problem.

DISCUSSION ---

We ran Norton 3.0 on a Power Macintosh and did not get the invalid file length

error for the QuickDraw GX extension. However, we had used ResEdit to look at
the extension before running the Norton utility. ResEdit had to do some minor
repairs before it would open the extension.

The first part of the resource fork is a header which contains information about
the length of the fork. Specifically, the header contains the offset to the
resource map and the length of the map. Since the resource map is at the end of
the fork, the offset to the resource map and the length of the resource map
should add up to the length of the resource fork.

However, the resource fork of the QuickDraw GX extension has some extra bytes
added after the resource map. The data in the resource fork is not corrupted in
any way and the Resource Manager is not affected by the extra bytes.

We contacted Symantec and were told that Norton compares the actual fork length
to the sum of the offset to the resource map and the length of the resource map.
If these values are not equal, Norton reports an incorrect physical length for
the file. They are also aware of this error being reported for the QuickDraw GX
extension, but have not determined what to do about it at this time.

Symantec suggests we tell anyone who calls about this message to ignore it for
now, but only if the message pertains to the QuickDraw GX extension.

Apple engineering says that the extra bytes in the QuickDraw GX resource fork
are due to the compression scheme used to compress the resources. They are
looking into correcting the problem but it is not a high priority since the
problem does not cause any side effects except for confusing some disk repair
utilities.

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