Tech Info Library

System 7.x: Creating and Using Custom Icon Folders (2/95)

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TOPIC ---

This article describes how to create folders that use custom icons and how to
repair folders when a folder's icon becomes damaged or deleted, or when a folder
loses its link to an ICON file.

DISCUSSION ---

System 7 lets you modify the existing icons any non-system file, folder, or
volume. Custom icons are saved directly into a file's resource fork, and an
attribute bit is set to alert the Finder to display a custom icon. Folders and
volumes do not have resource forks, however, so custom icons are saved instead
to an invisible file named ICON. This file is located at the root level of the
folder or volume.

Creating a Folder That Uses a Custom Icon
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Follow these steps to create a folder that uses a custom icon:

Step 1:
Select the graphic to use for an icon. An icon in the Get Info window of any
document is one possible source. You can also use a graphic application to
create your own.

Step 2:
Copy the graphic to the Clipboard by choosing Copy from the Edit menu.

Step 3:
In the Finder, select the icon you want to change.

Step 4:
Choose Get Info from the File menu.

Step 5:
Ensure that the Locked box in the lower-left corner of the Get Info window is
not checked. You cannot customize the icon of a locked file.

Step 6:
Click the icon at the upper-left of the Get Info window or press the Tab key to
select it.

Step 7:
Choose Paste from the Edit menu.

Step 8:
Click the Close box to close the Get Info window.

If the selected graphic is bigger than the icon in the Get Info window, it
automatically shrinks to fit.

Custom Icon Repair
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Sometimes custom icons created for files, folders, or hard disks become damaged
or deleted. If the link between the folder or volume and the ICON file is lost,
the Finder may display a generic document icon in place of the custom icon. When
attempting to edit this icon through Get Info, you get an error message saying
that the item cannot be found. If you have a damaged custom icon on a folder,
follow these steps:

Step 1:
Create a new folder.

Step 2:
Copy the damaged folder's contents into the new folder.

Step 3:
Place the empty folder in the trash.

Step 4:
Give the new folder a custom icon by follosing the steps in the preceding
section.

If you have a damaged custom icon on a volume, you can try a public domain
utility called Disk Rejuvenator to correct it. You can try the steps outlined in
the next section if you have a disk or file utility that lets you make invisible
files visible. Another option is to reformat the volume.

WARNING! Formatting a volume erases all data; back up first.

ResEdit and File Utilities for Repairing Custom Icons
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There is a Finder attribute for folders and volumes called "Custom Icon". You
can turn this attribute off using ResEdit. When the folder reverts to a normal
folder icon, you can attach a new icon to it. ResEdit cannot access this
attribute for volumes. You can also try to correct the problem by following
these steps:

Step 1:
From the Finder, create another custom icon for a folder by following the steps
in the preceding "How to Create a Custom Icon Folder section".

Step 2:
Using a file utility such as ResEdit, find the ICON file for this newly-created
custom icon (it is at the root level of the folder to which it is attached) and
make that file visible. Also make visible the ICON file at the root level of the
affected volume.

Step 3:
In the Finder, copy the now-visible ICON file from the folder to the root level
of the volume. You may receive the message "Are you sure you want to replace the
older file…" If so, click OK. This restores the icon file.

Step 4:
Using the file utility, make the ICON file invisible again.

Step 5:
Click on the volume once to select it and choose Get Info from the File menu.
You can now edit or delete this icon.

If you correct a damaged icon and it becomes damaged again before long, you
might consider removing the icon from your system.

Article Change History:
09 Feb 1995 - Changed article; added keyword; completely updated.
12 Dec 1994 - Clarified some parts of the Discussion.
17 Oct 1994 - Reviewed for consistency, and updated format.

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