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System 7: AppleEvents

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Article Change History

09/16/92 - REVIEWED

- For technical accuracy.

TOPIC -----

What is AppleEvents? Is the implementation of AppleEvents the same for all applications?

DISCUSSION -----

AppleEvents is the underlying messaging language that applications use for complex communication with other applications. For the user, Apple event-aware applications are applications that can use services of other applications, either on the same machine or across the network. These applications use Apple-event messages as intelligent hooks to share functionality with other applications. AppleEvent implementation is application-specific, in that different types of programs will implement different sets of AppleEvents (for example, databases will use different sets of AppleEvents than word processors). All implementations will support a set of core events, which are defined by Apple.

Here are several examples:

- An accounting package can pass inventory data to a spreadsheet and retrieve a graph of that data for display in its own report.
- Utility packages like spell checkers, thesauruses, or formula editors can work generically with Apple event-aware applications.
- An application can request that a more sophisticated program display a specialized graphics format like TIFF in the requesting application window.

Applications vary in terms of how they implement AppleEvents. Check with

your specific software manual for details about how to use this feature
with your chosen software.

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