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Macintosh Easy Open Developer's Kit

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TOPIC -----

Macintosh Easy Open simplifies opening files from other programs and platforms.

DISCUSSION -----

The Macintosh Easy Open Developer's Kit is an extension to System 7 and a translation manager application programming interface (API). Developers can enhance their applications or translation systems to open and convert documents on Macintosh personal computers. They can open and convert documents even though the applications that created the files aren't available.

It's designed to simplify access to information from a variety of applications and across computing platforms. Once incorporated into third-party applications or file translation systems, Macintosh Easy Open provides options for accessing and manipulating documents quickly and easily. Applications require no modifications to take advantage of most Macintosh Easy Open features.

Macintosh Easy Open provides a number of ways to access Macintosh and non-Macintosh files. For example, when a user double-clicks on a document that normally couldn't be opened because the application that created it is unavailable, Macintosh Easy Open intercedes and searches for applications and file translation systems that are capable of opening the document, and lists them. Once you select an alternate application, Macintosh Easy Open transparently manages the conversion of the document using the application's internal translation capabilities or by using specialized translation software.

By incorporating a standard API, Macintosh Easy Open provides Apple developers with translation-management services. These services can be integrated into their applications or translation systems to provide transparent data conversion whenever opening, copying, pasting, or publishing data from one format to another. While Macintosh Easy Open doesn't perform any data translation itself, it effectively manages access to third-party translation systems and applications, which perform the

actual translation.

The Macintosh Easy Open extension also features added descriptive information about documents, including non-Macintosh files, and color icons in the Open and Save windows. This makes it easier to determine document types at the Finder level.

The Macintosh Easy Open Document Converter, which comes with Macintosh Easy Open, is a system utility that works with third-party translators to allow conversion of a document from one file format to another, without opening the document. With this feature, you can convert files easily and quickly by dragging file icons to the Document Converter icon.

Availability

The Macintosh Easy Open 1.0 Developer's Kit is available to developers from the Apple Programmers & Developers Association (APDA), Apple's mail-order service for developers.

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