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System 7: When an Application Doesn't Support Stationery

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08/18/92 - REVIEWED

- For technical accuracy; edited.

TOPIC -----

The Stationery feature seems to have a counter-intuitive user interface. If I check both Stationery and Locked in a document's Get Info box, and then open the document, I get an untitled document with the contents of the selected Stationery document. Is this how it should work?

DISCUSSION -----

Yes, this is how it should work. But the application must support Stationery for it to work correctly. If the application doesn't provide support, the Finder substitutes fundamental actions. What you see are the Finder actions taken in the absence of Stationery support from the application.

When you double-click a Stationery Pad in the Finder, you open a copy of the document. If a document is marked as Stationery, the Finder checks the application to see if it supports Stationery. If the application doesn't support Stationery, the Finder creates a new document from the template and prompts you for a name. The Finder then makes a copy of the document and displays the copy dialog.

When you open a Stationery document from an application that doesn't support Stationery, an alert box warns that you are opening the Stationery Pad itself, not a copy of it. Opened from the application, you make changes to the Stationery document as if it were an ordinary document. It is possible in such a case to change a Stationery document even when you didn't intend to alter the template.

If the application supports Stationery, the Finder won't perform auxiliary actions. The application takes responsibility for what happens. The specifications for Stationery support require that the

application copy the template's contents into a new document and open
the document in an untitled window.
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