Apple Menu Options: Slow Initial Server Mounting (7/95)

Article Created: 06 March 1995
Article Reviewed/Updated: 31 July 1995

TOPIC ---

I notice that when mounting a server volume with Apple Menu Options (AMO)
active, it takes a particularly long time to draw the icons from that remote
volume. Why is this?

DISCUSSION --

When the option of remembering recent servers is checked in the Apple Menu
Options control panel, an alias to a recently accessed server is placed in the
recent servers folder. Since this server alias could potentially be navigated
with hierarchical menus starting at Recent Servers:<server alias>, Apple Menu
Options enumerates and caches all files and folders on the server. Up to four
levels of menus could be extended (five is the maximum menu hierarchy, and the
first level is used to navigate to the Recent Servers folder), so AMO acquires
HFS structure information for the top four levels of folders and files.
Depending on the access of the given user to this server, this can result in
slow connect time.

Since each server user can have different folder access privileges to the
volume, the time it takes for AMO to acquire and cache the information for one
user might be vastly different from another. The Administrator with access to
all folders, might experience longer waits than a user with only access to a
single drop folder. Apple Menu Options will only access folder information that
the user has privileges to. The interior of a drop folder cannot be seen, so
nothing beyond the first level is acquired. This represents the two most extreme
cases.

Another simple example between two users might be when each has access to just a
single folder to store their files. One user may create a wide and deep folder
structure inside their user folder. The second user may not use any folder
hierarchy, but just store files at the top level. User one will have a longer
connect time to the server than user two.

The width and depth of the folder structure that the user has access to on a
server affects how much information AMO needs to acquire from that server.

If you wish to avoid these slowdowns, rather than disabling and removing Apple
Menu Options completely, disable the Recent Servers option in the Apple Menu

Options Control Panel. This enables the user to still use hierarchical menus to access Control Panels, Recent Files and Recent Applications. Aliases to servers can still be created by the user and stored somewhere other than the Apple Menu Items or a subfolder. This will keep Apple Menu Options from "exploring" the server file system.

Article Change History:
31 Jul 1995 - Added information on server access.

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Keywords: sys75,ksts,kol

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19960215 11:05:19.00
Tech Info Library Article Number: 17314