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How To Prevent Switch-Launching Between Floppy Disks

This article last reviewed: 29 April 1988

Some users have asked if there is a way to prevent switch-launching between floppies on a floppy-based system.

The "Technical Introduction to the Macintosh Family" states: "You can prevent this switch-launching by holding down the Option key when you start the application."

Actually, switch-launching is either prevented OR allowed by this procedure, depending on the kind of disks in the system.

Hard Disk Systems

Switch-launching is generally PREVENTED in a hard disk system. To force a switch-launch:

1. Hold down the Option and Command keys while opening an application.
2. Set the Finder Flags for the application to "Always switch-launch" (Get Info on the file using ResEdit).

Floppy Disk Systems

In floppy-based systems, the system generally switches to the System files on the diskette that contains the application being opened.

Holding down the Option key while opening an application on a floppy-based system will NOT prevent switch-launching (as is incorrectly stated in the "Technical Introduction to the Macintosh Family".) Therefore, to prevent switch-launching to a diskette on a floppy-based system:

1. Remove the System Folder.
2. Place either the System file or Finder -- but not both -- into another folder, or at root.
3. Use MultiFinder, which prevents switch-launching (if there is sufficient RAM to support both MultiFinder and the applications).

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Keywords: <None>

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19960215 11:05:19.00

Tech Info Library Article Number: 2895