Macintosh: How To Use AFE To Import ProDOS PFS File Data

This article last reviewed: 21 October 1988

A good way to move data from the ProDOS version of PFS File to a Macintosh is
to follow three steps:

1) Issue the PFS File "Copy Forms" command (explained in Chapter 9 of the PFS
   File manual) to print the file to disk as a ProDOS "delimited text" file.

2) Read this ProDOS text file into AppleWorks.

3) Print the file to disk to create a text file that he can import into the
   Macintosh. The resulting file is a true "TXT"-type file.

Some people want to use the PFS File "Copy Forms" command (explained in Chapter
9 of the PFS File manual) in a one-step operation. The problem with this is
that Copy Forms does not create TXT-type file, but rather a "delimited text"
file. Apple File Exchange does not see such a file as a text file and
translates it as "default" mode. The additional step (moving the file into and
out of AppleWorks) changes the file to a true TXT-type file that AFE can
accomodate.

Apple File Exchange accomplishes file translation using scripts. You can write
a script that accommodates the file type that has been assigned to the PFS
File. To implement the translator, programming in the AFE environment is
required (see "Apple File Exchange Technical Reference Package v1.1",
available from APDA).

Software Publishing Corporation, publishers of the PFS series, recommends
that the customer print the document to a disk. This assigns a TXT type to the
printed document. However, this method writes the file in the screen layout
format or a mailing label layout format. It does not automatically separate
the fields or the records as the method described here does. For more
information, search on "Software Publishing Corporation".

You can also change the file type with a file editor. However, this method is
more technical and riskier than using the AppleWorks method.
Copyright 1988 Apple Computer, Inc.

Keywords: <None>

===

This information is from the Apple Technical Information Library.

19960215 11:05:19.00

Tech Info Library Article Number: 3370