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AppleShare Windows Client & FileMaker Pro for Windows (9/95)

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TOPIC -----

I recently received AppleShare for Windows for evaluation, and I started Claris FileMaker Pro Windows client trying to access my departments multi-user database. I received a message indicating that I could not open the database because it was already open. I tried other workarounds dealing with AppleTalk networking protocols, but it appears Claris wrote FileMaker Pro specifically to use Farallon's implementation of AppleTalk.

I called Claris, and they sent me a tech note titled "Networking with AppleShare Client for Windows: Important considerations on who can use the newly released AppleTalk/Windows utility." The pertinent text follows:

"Apple has just recently released a limited implementation of AppleTalk that allows Windows clients to access AppleShare servers. FileMaker Pro for Windows cannot use this software for networking with other computers using FileMaker Pro."

Here are my questions:

- 1) Whose problem is this -- Claris or Apple?
- 2) Who is going to fix this problem -- Claris or Apple?
- 3) When is this going to be fixed?

DISCUSSION -----

As of September 1995, the implementation of FileMaker Pro for Windows is written to use the older Farallon AppleTalk stack, hence its inability to use the full AppleTalk implementation incorporated in AppleShare for Windows Client Software. This was a strategic decision made by Claris, due in part to the imminent release of Windows 95, and Claris' desire to revise FileMaker for Windows 95.

Answer your questions:

- 1) Whose problem is this -- Claris or Apple?

Answer: This is not considered a problem, it was a strategic decision on the

part of Claris.

2) Who is going to fix this problem -- Claris or Apple?

Answer: FileMaker Pro for Windows will need to be revised to use the newer AppleTalk stack implemented in the AppleShare for Windows Client Software.

3) When is this going to be fixed?

Answer: Preliminary information indicates Claris will not be writing to the current AppleTalk stack for Windows. They indicate they will probably be using IPX and TCP/IP in the near future, since those seem to be the dominant protocols for DOS/Windows systems. We will to pass this information to the proper Claris team.

Two workarounds you might try:

- Install MacIPX on the server, and connect to the server via IPX from the Windows systems.
- If multi-user capabilities are not needed, mount the server volume with the AppleShare for Windows Client, and open the database. Note that multi-user functionality will not be available.

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