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DocViewer Version 1.0: Description (10/93)

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TOPIC -----

Apple DocViewer is a Macintosh application that allows a user to read documentation on the computer screen. Features of the application include full page view, "live" table of contents and book index, bookmarks and advanced searching capabilities. Much of Apple's technical development and product documentation is delivered in Apple DocViewer.

This article further describes the Apple DocViewer.

DISCUSSION -----

The Apple DocViewer was designed originally to deliver Developer Support books, like Inside Macintosh, to the Apple developer community. The product gained great support and developers asked to use the Builder for their own documents.

Apple DocViewer is an online documentation application that provides a standard way for Apple to distribute documentation in an electronic form. Apple DocViewer provides a quick on-screen reference for browsing through multiple documents. It supports full Macintosh mixed-text and graphics, printing, interactive table of contents/catalog, book indexes, text search and retrieval, the ability to copy text and/or pictures for use in other applications, and provides the ability to set bookmarks to commonly used pages in documentation.

Apple DocViewer ISN'T a word processor; it was designed to support quick conversion of existing technical documents to electronic form. Apple DocViewer focuses on being both a printing and display tool.

Apple DocViewer runs on all models of the Macintosh computer from the Macintosh Plus and later. It runs under versions 6.0.5 and later of the Macintosh system software, including version 7.0, release 7.1. Apple DocViewer requires at least 1024K memory partition. Apple DocViewer also requires both bitmap and TrueType fonts. In particular,

many Apple DocViewer documents use Palatino, Helvetica, Courier, and Zapf Dingbats. The Apple DocViewer is font dependent. If the required fonts aren't installed, the system will do font substitution, and the document won't have the same appearance as the original.

You can run the Apple DocViewer application directly from a CD, or from a server, but Apple strongly recommends that customers copy the application to a local hard drive.

The DocViewer application ships on Developer CDs, with QuickTime 1.5, and with the WorkGroup servers, among other sources. Additionally, AppleShare Pro comes with documentation in DocViewer format. When the AppleShare Software is installed, this documentation will be installed in the Documentation folder in the "/" (root) directory.

The Builder

The software that creates Apple DocViewer documents is called "Builder." The Builder software is available through site licensing only. Customers may send an AppleLink memo to SW.LICENSE to obtain the license agreement. It's a one time only fee, and is limited to one company per license. Apple doesn't support this product.

There are several companies that will convert documents for you if you don't have the resources to create your own. A complete list is available on AppleLink in the Developer Support area.

If you have an outside company build your documents, you don't need a site license for the Builder. You need to pay a fee for a distribution agreement. You may send an AppleLink memo to SW.LICENSE for the agreement form. Upgrades aren't included in the agreements. They will be made available, either free or for an upgrade fee, at the time of release.

The Builder converts Microsoft Word and FrameMaker files into Apple DocViewer files. The structure of the documents, table of contents and index entries are translated and automated in Apple DocViewer. All words in the document become "keywords" through the build process providing a search capability.

The Builder supports other files besides Word and FrameMaker files. However, you can generate table of contents and index entries only from these two products. If the source program can export RTF, generally the Builder can generate a set of keywords for the searching. If the source can't generate an RTF file, then you can still build an Apple DocViewer file, but you won't be able to copy text or do searching.

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