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MacX: Reporting Inaccurate DECnet Tool 1.1 Error Message (1/95)

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TOPIC -----

I'm getting an inaccurate error message in MacX. I'm using MacX v1.1.7 connected via PATHWORKS 1.1 to a VMS client.

This is the error message returned: "Remote Command ... could not be executed via the tool DECnet Tool. Creation of the remote command stream failed. Connection tool error code 3." The closest description of this error is on page 119 of the MacX User's Manual, which describes the error as memory related.

Support representatives from Digital eventually diagnosed the cause of the error as a configuration question in the DECnet tool. The security option of the configuration was left blank. This appears to be a valid configuration for DECnet, because I was using MacTerminal with this DECnet tool configuration with no problem. It wasn't until I tried to connect with the DECWindows client that I encountered the error.

It appears that MacX doesn't return an accurate error code during the connect sequence.

DISCUSSION -----

MacX does all it can here to report the DECnet Tool error code 3. In fact, this is a problem with the DECnet Tool 1.1, and we posted an article on AppleLink about it.

The security box under the DECnet Tool's Mac EXEC settings allows you to enter a username and password to provide security for your Macintosh node. For example, if your Macintosh DECnet node name is MYMAC, then other DECnet nodes can access the topmost directory (folder) of the files on your Macintosh computer by issuing the command.

```
$ DIR MYMAC"USERNAME PASSWORD"::
```

It should be fine to leave these fields blank if you don't want to "turn on" security for your Macintosh DECnet node. For some unknown reason, DECnet Tool

requires something to be there, or the connection won't work.

We checked page 119 of the MacX User's Manual, and can't find where this Connection Tool Error 3 is linked with a memory-related error. Since Thursby/DEC writes DECnet for Macintosh, you should request a list of its error codes directly from DEC.

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