



# Tech Info Library

## PowerShare: Too Many Open Files Problem (7/94)

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### TOPIC -----

I'm running a catalog server, mail server, and smtp gateway. I experience problems when trying to send enclosures within mail messages. The error is, -42 Too many open files. I temporarily fixed the problem by removing some fonts.

I'm trying to duplicate the hierarchy of my organization in the catalog server directory setup.

I ran TAA by CE Software and this utility reported there are 8 files open for every catalog directory on the server. They are: Reliable trans log, Reliable log, Items, Items bt, Names map, Types map, CID map, and Hot Rumors. I currently have 39 directories set up. If I am not mistaken the maximum number of open files in the finder is 340 or so.

Why are there so many open files? What do these files do?

### DISCUSSION -----

The number of folders that can be served by a single catalog server is limited by the file system's limit on the number of open files. In System 7 Pro this limit is 348. Since each catalog folder uses 8 files, the maximum number of folders that a server can serve is  $(348-x)/8$ , where  $x$  is the number of files already in use by the system and other applications. On most machines, if there are no other applications running, this number translates into approximately 39 folders. However, if the server is running co-resident with a mail server or other applications, this number will most likely be lower.

The advantage that PowerShare offers is that adding additional capacity can be done with very little impact on the clients of the system. For example, if you have multiple file servers on a network all the users must be told the names and locations of the file servers and they have to remember what files reside on which server. Under PowerShare one catalog structure can be distributed across multiple catalog servers in a way that is transparent to the clients.

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