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AppleShare File Server 2.0: New Product Information

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Overview

AppleShare File Server 2.0 (AFS) is an updated version of AppleShare. AFS allows you to store and share Macintosh documents, folders, and applications. The AFS software and your Macintosh Plus, Macintosh SE, or Macintosh II together create an AFS server. The server can run over any AppleTalk cable system, including LocalTalk and EtherTalk.

The rest of this article describes changes that have been made in AppleShare File Server 2.0.

Server Changes

AppleTalk Filing Protocol (AFP) 2.0

AFP has been modified to support Apple II workstations. AFP 2.0 is an extension of AFP 1.1. For more information, see "ProDOS Support" later in this article.

Large Volumes Start Up Faster

The time required to check each volume for consistency of the Parallel Directory Structure (PDS) has been reduced. During this process, all file and folders on the volume are cross-checked with the PDS file. The PDS file is used internally by AFS.

Automatic Repair At Startup

In the past, these errors were flagged, and you had to run the AppleShare Administrator to repair the PDS file. The server now repairs errors in the PDS when it finds a problem. This saves time, because you do not have to restart and run the AppleShare Administration program to start up your server. If any repair is necessary, it will be listed in the AppleShare Messages listing.

Folder Locking

You can now lock a folder, thus preventing it from moving. The option is

enabled from the Access Privileges desk accessory. Only the folder's owner can check or uncheck the folder lock option. When the folder is locked, ALL users are prevented from moving, renaming, and deleting the folder.

Support for Read-Only devices (CD-ROM)

AFS 2.0 supports HFS CDs. A PDS file and Desktop Database are created in the Server Folder on the startup volume. These files are created when the AppleShare Admin program is run to setup a CD volume. Only the Macintosh partition of the CD can be accessed by AFS. (AFS disables the option to eject the CD from the drive.)

From the workstation, you will see no difference (except volume size) in the server volumes. A CD is slower due, to the seek time of the drive. If multiple users are accessing different parts of the drive at the same time, there will be a noticeable slowdown.

Workstation

Set Password

Users can now change their passwords through the Chooser DA. An encrypted version of the password is sent to the Server, to ensure security for the password.

View Information

The view (by size, name, date, type...) of a file is set by the Owner of the folder. A user can change the view of a folder, but when the folder is opened by other AFS users, the view is set from the owner's settings.

Admin Changes

Online Administration

The AppleShare Administration program can be run concurrently with the AppleShare File Server 2.0. In the past, performing administrative tasks required bringing down AppleShare. AppleShare Admin now runs as a concurrent application -- so you can add users, groups, and perform other tasks while the AFS server is still running.

Administrator (Custodian)

AppleShare File Server 2.0 allows the Administrator to function as an all-knowing and all-powerful user. This is a special user that the old version of AppleShare called the custodian. The Administrator can see ALL files and folders, create, rename, delete, and move files in any folder on the server volume, as if the administrator were the owner of the file or folder. The Administrator can also reassign any folder's owner, group, or access privileges.

Copy a volume

The Admin program lets you copy a full volume, keeping the access privileges intact for the entire volume. Although you can do this while the server is running, it's best to do it when the server is down. If you copy while the server is running, some files will not be copied, because of file locking. The server still allows users to access files, but in a very slow manner.

ProDOS Support

Apple II Admin Box

A check box to set up Apple II Administration is located in the Server Information box. Selecting this box creates the folder Users at the root level of the startup volume. It then creates a folder for each user, and places an empty Apple II boot file in each user folder. The administrator should have users entered in the User List before you perform this function.

After this box has been selected, a new APPLE II menu will appear, from which the administrator can set the printer, prefix, and startup application for each user. You first select the user from the user list, and then select Startup Information from the Apple II menu.

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