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Apple File Exchange and Macintosh PC Exchange: A Comparison

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TOPIC -----

This article provides an overview of Apple File Exchange and Macintosh PC Exchange, and compares the two products.

DISCUSSION -----

Apple File Exchange Overview

Apple File Exchange is a file translation utility that converts a file from one format to another. For example, Apple File Exchange can take a DOS-formatted file and translate it to a Macintosh format. The file can then be opened by Macintosh applications designed to read the format into which the file has been translated.

Macintosh PC Exchange Overview

Macintosh PC Exchange is a software product that lets Macintosh computers, running System 7 and equipped with an Apple SuperDrive or a third-party 5.25-inch MS-DOS-compatible disk drive, easily read, write, and format DOS disks. DOS files appear on the Macintosh desktop just like Macintosh documents, and can be opened, saved, renamed, moved, copied, or deleted. The DOS file format is in no way altered by Macintosh PC Exchange. The application that you specify to open a DOS file must be able to read that DOS file format.

Apple File Exchange and Macintosh PC Exchange: A Comparison

Macintosh PC Exchange is an easier and more intuitive method for opening DOS-format disks. Macintosh PC Exchange also lets the Finder handle DOS files in the same manner as Macintosh files. The main differences between Macintosh PC Exchange and Apple File Exchange are:

- Macintosh PC Exchange is activated when you start up your Macintosh and automatically recognizes a DOS-format disk when it's inserted in an Apple SuperDrive. Apple File Exchange is a separate utility that must be manually launched every time you want to read a DOS disk.
- Macintosh PC Exchange lets you manipulate DOS files in the Finder, just

like other Macintosh documents. It also lets you pre-assign the application to open when you double-click a DOS file. Apple File Exchange cannot automatically launch an application when a DOS file is double-clicked.

- Apple File Exchange comes with three special translator files that let you translate documents between Macintosh and DOS file formats. Macintosh PC Exchange doesn't contain any document translation capabilities.

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