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Macintosh System 6.0.x: Don't Begin File Name with Period

Article Created: 27 April 1991

Article Last Reviewed:

Article Last Updated:

TOPIC -----

Using System Software 6.0.7, I create a file and name it ".temp". If I select the file and try to duplicate it with the Finder "Duplicate File" command, it won't. The screen blinks then comes back. If I keep trying to duplicate the file, the Finder bombs.

DISCUSSION -----

Apple is aware of this problem, which has to do with a patch to the "Open" trap for the Slot Manager. The Slot Manager assumes that all attempts to open a file that has a period ('.') as the first character in its name is a driver for a NuBus card.

This will always be a problem with System Software 6.0.x-based Macintosh systems. There are no workarounds that we are aware of except not using a period as the first character in a file name.

System Software 7.0 has a call that prevents this problem from happening. The call that causes the problem is "FSPopen". The new call is "OpenDF" and will be documented in Inside Macintosh Volume VI. The difference between the two calls is that FSPopen can open both files and devices; OpenDF can only open files.

This problem will still happen in System 7.0 if the old call is used. This will be the case with all existing applications and possibly new applications for System 7.0 specifically. Both calls will work under System 7.0. We recommend that developers use the new calls for their System 7.0 applications.

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Keywords: <None>

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19960215 11:05:19.00

Tech Info Library Article Number: 7313