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TextEdit: Limits and Alternatives

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TOPIC -----

I have developed an alpha version of an electronic mail system for a Sun 4 server running UNIX with Macintosh front ends. Documents are limited to approximately 32,000 characters, because of the 16-bit count in the text editor (buffer). I want the system to handle longer documents, and this brings up a couple of questions:

- 1) "Inside Macintosh Volume I," page 392, shows "teLength" as an integer (16-bit). Is this the variable in question?
- 2) Does System Software 7.0 implement longint (32-bit) count?
- 3) Is there a tool kit available for developers that would help in this effort?

DISCUSSION -----

- 1) TextEdit is able to handle text up to 32,767 characters long. This is a design or implementation limit. The "teLength" field just happens to reflect this limit. Remember, TextEdit was designed for limited text handling tasks; it was not intended to be the foundation for an editor or word processor.
 - 2) TextEdit will still be limited to 32,767 characters in System Software 7.0.
 - 3) There is a text-editor tool kit available from Symantec call "CAPPS" that is compatible with their Think C and Think Pascal products. DataPak Software has a product called "WP-Engine" that may also meet your needs. For more details, search for "Symantic AND 3rd" and "DataPak AND 3rd".
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