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Macintosh Finder: How View Affects File Opening Order

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TOPIC -----

Why is it that when I surround multiple files in the Macintosh Finder 6.X with a selection rectangle, and then choose Open from the File menu, the order in which files open varies?

DISCUSSION -----

When you use the selection rectangle (also called a "marquee" or "marching ants"), the "View" you have selected affects the order in which the files open. Here are the view selections and their results:

- By Icon or By Small Icon: The most recently added, moved, clicked on, or changed file opens last. The next most recently added, moved, clicked on, or changed file opens NEXT to last, and so on.
- By Name: The files open in descending alphabetical order; for example, "Zero" would open after "Alice".
- By Date: The files open in last-modified date order; that is, the most recently modified file opens last.
- By Size: The files open in size order, smallest file opening last.
- By Kind: The files open in alphabetical order based on the kind of file. For example, a document file opens after an application file.
- By Color: The files open according to the color of their icons, based on the order of colors in the Finder's Color menu. The last color in the list opens last.

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