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HyperCard and Multi-User Applications on Servers

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TOPIC -----

Some customers have reported problems using HyperCard to open multi-user applications that are on a server. If they launch the application from a HyperCard script, they don't have multi-user access.

If they launch the application from the Finder, then use the HyperCard script to open a session with the application, they do have multi-user access. And if they launch the application entirely without HyperCard, they have multi-user access.

DISCUSSION -----

When you launch an application using HyperCard's Open command, it opens the application with privileges that lock the file. This prevents any other application, including the Finder, from launching the same application. HyperCard's Open command, therefore, can not multi-launch a single application.

There are ways to work around this. As mentioned, if you initially launch the application from the Finder, additional launches of the application from HyperCard do work, because it's the first application (in this case, the Finder) rather than HyperCard that sets the privileges of the open file.

You can also write an XCMD that does what the Open command does, except that you set the privileges for multilaunch in the XCMD.

Another option is to launch multi-user applications locally, rather than from the server. We've found that multi-user applications work faster when each Macintosh has a local copy of the application and accesses only the data file on the server. If the application is kept at the root level of each Macintosh, a HyperCard stack could launch the application locally, and

the application could get the data from the server.

If you don't want to have the application at the root level, you can:

- program each HyperCard stack with the access path to the application; or
- have the user tell HyperCard where the application is on the local disk (via the dialog that HyperCard shows if it doesn't know where an application is).

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