



Tech Info Library

System 7: InterApplication Communication

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System 7: InterApplication Communication

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Article Change History

09/16/92 - REVIEWED
• For technical accuracy.

TOPIC -----

What is InterApplication Communication (IAC)?

DISCUSSION -----

InterApplication Communication describes the way applications use new features of System 7--the Edition Manager and AppleEvents--to cooperate more closely and improve the users' work flow.

Applications that implement the Edition Manager provide the ability to automatically update documents. New Edit menu commands let users "Publish" data to other documents and "Subscribe" to data that remains linked to the original source document. When the published data is edited, the changes are copied automatically to all its subscribers on the same machine or across the network. For example, the user can subscribe to a spreadsheet table in a word processing document. When the spreadsheet changes, the word processing document gets the change automatically.

Apple events make possible even more complex interaction between applications. It provides an invisible messaging language that will let programs share data and commands. The user sees Apple event-aware applications as those that can request services from each other. For example, an accounting package can pass inventory data to a spreadsheet and retrieve a graph of that data for display in its own report.

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