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Macintosh: Where Changes Are Stored When a File Is Edited

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TOPIC -----

For security reasons, I need to know where changes stored during editing of a document. Is there a temporary document created, or are the changes stored in RAM until I save or exit the document?

DISCUSSION -----

How a document stores changes varies depending on the manufacturer. For instance, MacPaint is a "RAM based" program and keeps its "changes" in the application heap space. MacPaint saves changes to disk only when you choose Save, whereas Microsoft Word buffers data to the disk.

Generally, if your program is creating "temp" files, it is writing changes to disk. For instance, with MultiFinder running, launch Microsoft Word and note how it creates a Word Temp file in the System folder. Quit Microsoft Word (saving your document using Save or Save As) and the "Word Temp" file disappears. Not all temp files are visible, and some applications may buffer data to disk without being so obvious.

If you must know if an application buffers user data to disk, ask the manufacturer of your software.

A related issue is the Virtual INIT and Virtual in System 7. By design, both programs buffer data to disk (but you have the option to turn them off).

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