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System 7: Purpose of Notification Manager

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Article Change History

08/18/92 - REVIEWED
                • For technical accuracy.

TOPIC ---

Sometimes a diamond appears next to an application in the Application menu
that is running in the background. What does the diamond signify?

DISCUSSION ---

The diamond next to a running application in the Application menu indicates
that the program has a message or an alert to display. The Notification
Manager lets processes running in the background notify the user of
messages or alerts without disrupting the process running in the
foreground.

An example of an application that uses the Notification Manager is
PrintMonitor. Rather than PrintMonitor taking control of the screen and
becoming the active application, PrintMonitor alternates its icon with the
Apple icon in the menu bar, when it requires the user's attention. In
addition, a small diamond is placed next to the application name in the
Application menu.

The Notification Manager provides three alert levels:

- Polite: A blinking icon appears in the menu bar.
- Audible: The system beeps once.
- Alert Box: A dialog appears that the user must acknowledge.

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