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System 7: Program Linking and InterApplication Communication

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Security: Everyone

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Article Change History

08/18/92 - REVISED

- To include text of another article detailing steps of setting up program linking.

TOPIC -----

When do I need to turn on Program Linking? Is Program Linking necessary to send AppleEvents between programs?

DISCUSSION -----

With AppleEvents, there are two possible configurations to take into account. The two communicating applications can be on the same computer, or they can be on different computers.

If the two applications are on the same computer, they simply use AppleEvents to communicate, with no other setup needed.

However, if the two programs are on different computers, permissions must be put in place to regulate the other system's ability to communicate with the programs on your system. When others are actively linking to your programs, your system may be slower to respond than usual.

You must turn on Program Linking to enable the InterApplication Communications (IAC) features of applications that are System 7-compatible. Program Linking is the switch that lets applications communicate with each other by sharing commands and data over AppleTalk networks. It provides security measures that prevent unauthorized use of programs and data from remote computers. To activate IAC, permission must be granted at System and Application levels.

How to Turn On Program Linking

To respond to events from remote computers, you must explicitly let network users link to your computer. To do this, follow these steps:

- 1) Open the Control Panel folder.
- 2) Open the Sharing Setup Control Panel.
- 3) Enter your name, password, and your computer's name.
- 4) Click the Start button for Program Linking.

The Sharing Setup Control Panel then states "Program Linking is on. Click Stop to prevent other users from accessing shared programs." To prevent other computers from initiating sessions, click Stop underneath Program Linking.

Selecting Specific Applications

Here's how to select specific applications:

- 1) Select an application from the Finder.
- 2) Choose Sharing from the File menu.
- 3) Click the Allow Remote Program Linking checkbox.

What Else You Must Do

In addition to letting remote users initiate conversations between applications via Program Linking, you must:

- Permit physical access to their programs and data by enabling File sharing from the Sharing Setup Control Panel
- Choose which other users to interact with via the Users and Groups Control Panel.

To establish access for other users and guests, follow these steps:

- 1) Open the Users & Groups icon in the Control Panels folder.
- 2) To specify a particular new user, choose New User from the File menu.
- 3) Type the user's name and password.

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