Tech Info Library

System 7: Program Linking versus Publish and Subscribe

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System 7: Program Linking versus Publish and Subscribe

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Article Change History
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09/22/92 - REVIEWED
             • For technical accuracy.
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TOPIC ------------------------------------------------------------
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How does publish and subscribe differ from program linking?

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DISCUSSION -------------------------------------------------------
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Publish-and-subscribe uses a transition file called the edition file. In
program linking, the two programs talk directly to each other.

You probably would publish a report generated from a database, but not the
cells of the database. For example, a word processor gets the top ten
salespeople from a database.

Publish and subscribe, by which a change in one document effects a change
in another document, has some of the flavor of program linking. However, it
is important to note the differences, and corresponding strengths, of each
feature.

The publish and subscribe feature is good for allowing programs (and their
documents) to share data, while program linking using AppleEvents allows
programs to communicate with each other--not only to send and receive data,
but also to provide services to and request services from the other
program.

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Publish and subscribe are used when:
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- you would otherwise copy and paste the same data;
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- the data involved will probably not be changed by the users who
  subscribe to it;
- the data is likely to be widely distributed--as in a large writing
  project;
- one document needs data from several other documents.

Applications use AppleEvents to:

- get data from another program if the details of the request change
  slightly each time;
- get another program to manipulate and return a set of data;
- configure and control a variety of programs.

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