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Data Access Manager (DAM): How It's Used

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TOPIC -----

I have the following questions about DAM:

- 1) How does DAM differ from DAL? How is it implemented?
- 2) Can in-house developers use it?
- 3) Are there ways of implementing it within HyperCard front ends?
- 4) I thought that DAM in System 7 applications talked to DAL. Is that correct?

DISCUSSION -----

- 1) You'll need to refer to Inside Macintosh, Volume VI, Chapter 8 for detailed information. This subject was covered thoroughly and takes up almost 75 pages, so we won't try to cover it in detail here.
- 2) Data Access Manager allows your application to communicate with a database or other data source even if you don't generally know about databases or the specific data source your software users communicate with.

All your application needs is a few high-level Data Access Manager functions and access to a file called a query document. The query document, provided by another application, contains commands and data in the format appropriate for the database or other data source. If your application can create commands for a remote data server, then it can use low-level routines to send these commands and data directly to the data server. An example of a data server is the Data Access Language

Server, which understands the command language called Data Access Language (DAL).

In-house developers can use Data Access Manager for their applications to access data in other applications, or they can write a query document for other applications to use. Again, detailed information and sample code is in Inside Macintosh, Volume VI.

- 3) Through HyperCard XCMDs and XFCNs, you can create HyperCard front-end applications that communicate to the low-level interface of Data Access Manager.
- 4) DAM is in System 7, not the applications. Both the high-level and low-level interfaces talk to DAL in a form of a database extension. This is the DAL extension installed with System 7. If you Get Info on it, you'll see it as a "database extension." Of course, DAM can talk to other database extensions. According to Inside Macintosh, the program containing the data need not be a database. With the appropriate database extensions, your application could read data from a spreadsheet, or any other program that stores data.

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