



# Tech Info Library

## MacTCP: Syntax of Hosts File (4/96)

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Security: Everyone

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TOPIC -----

I have a question about the Host file for MacTCP used in the remote commands to edit/create in MacX. With the Host... button I can select the connection method and the host. The MacX documentation specifies that the Host List will contain the names in the Hosts file of the System Folder.

How is the Host file created and what is the format? I haven't been able to get any names to appear in this list, so I use the network dot address for testing. I've tried creating a Host file like the /etc/hosts file on A/UX with TeachText (format <dot address> <host name>), but with no success.

DISCUSSION -----

NOTE: The syntax for a Hosts file under Open Transport TCP/IP is different. See Technical Information Library article, "Open Transport 1.1/TCP Supports HOSTS File", for Open Transport.

The syntax of the Hosts file used with MacTCP conforms to the master file syntax specified in RFC (Request For Comment) 1035. Here is the syntax:

```
name      type      data      [;comment]
```

- name = the name assigned to a host or domain on the internet.
- type = the type is one of the three below:
  - "A" for address
  - "NS" for Name Server
  - "CNAME" for Canonical name
- data = determined by the type specified

- comment = this is optional and begins with a semicolon (;)

The syntax of /etc/hosts file in A/UX is not compatible with the syntax of RFC 1035.

You can use a sample Hosts file which is included in the MacTCP software distribution to edit/add/delete entries and create a new Hosts file for your network.

Here are sample entries in a Hosts file:

```
roland1 A    130.252.11.27      ;      Mike Berg
bruce A      130.252.11.30      ;
windx A      130.252.11.31      ;      Rudy Martin
rizzi A      130.252.11.32      ;      John Rizzi
scoddt A     130.252.11.33      ;      Rudy Martin
reneel A     130.252.11.34      ;      Renee Gibson
paul A       130.252.11.35      ;
wendy A      130.252.11.36      ;
frank A      130.252.11.37      ;
setlab A     130.252.11.38      ;      Craig Adams
dick A       130.252.11.39      ;      Dick Mahoney
xshare A     130.252.11.40      ;      Rudy Martin
rudy A       130.252.11.41      ;      Rudy Martin
eagle A      130.252.11.42      ;
```

NOTE: You have to restart your computer after making changes to the Hosts file. The file should be named "Hosts" and should be in the system folder, not in any other folder.

For more information on the syntax of MacTCP Hosts file, refer to Appendix A, Name-to-Address Mapping, in the "MacTCP Administrator's Guide."

#### Article Change History:

20 Apr 1996 - Added Open Transport information.  
17 Apr 1995 - Added NOTE section at bottom.  
05 Jan 1993 - Reviewed for technical accuracy.

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