Tech Info Library

Audio Interchange File Format: Sound Files To Windows (7/94)

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Security:       Everyone
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TOPIC ---

I'm looking for information on the Audio Interchange File Format (AIFF). Is it
a standard on Macintosh? Is it supported under Windows? How can I move sound
files to DOS/Windows?

DISCUSSION ---

The AIFF sound files are the standard file format defined by Apple and several
third-party developers for sampled (digitized) sound.

However, Windows support is a different issue. Windows uses its own file format
for digitized sound. A simple AFE transfer won't provide a usable sound file in
the Windows/MS-DOS environment. If Windows did support the AIFF file format,
then an AFE transfer would be appropriate.

The AIFF sound file has header information which can be followed by a variety of
"chunks." One of these chunks represents a linear sampling of audio waveforms
stored as bytes. A general overview of AIFF files is in Chapter 22, The Sound
Manager, of Inside Macintosh VI. A more complete description of the AIFF file
format is available from APDA.

Nothing in the Windows/MS-DOS world can directly understand the header
information. Therefore, you need to do a file conversion. The only utility
commercially available that we know of (as of July, 1994) is "SoundEdit 16" from
MacroMedia. SoundEdit 16 can read Macintosh formatted (AIFF) files and then
create Windows Wave files as output. To locate a vendor's address and phone
number, use the vendor name as a search string.

Article Change History:
12 Jul 1994 - Added the MacroMedia utility SoundEdit 16

Support Information Services

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