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Macintosh: Effect of Locking Extensions and Drivers

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TOPIC -----

This article answers some questions about the effects of locking various files.

DISCUSSION -----

Q) Control panels and extensions are lockable. Other than not allowing the file to be thrown away, I'm under the impression that locking self-modifying files will prevent modification.

A) While it's true that you can lock control panels and extensions with ResEdit or similar utilities, this isn't a good idea. Some control panels and extensions expect to have write access to themselves, and may not behave gracefully when locked. We recommend AGAINST locking any file in the System Folder that doesn't come locked.

Q) Are the PostScript LaserWriter drivers and AppleShare extension self-modifying?

A) The PostScript LaserWriter drivers are self-modifying, but the AppleShare extension isn't. The AppleShare extension has its own Preference file, kept in the Preferences folder, called "AppleShare Prep."

Q) I assume that in AppleShare, locking would prevent the extension from remembering any servers that were selected to auto-mount.

A) Locking the "AppleShare Prep" file will indeed prevent the extension from remembering any servers that were selected to auto-mount. Actually, you'll get one or two error messages, depending on whether you saved just your name or your name and password in the Chooser.

Q) Wouldn't locking the LaserWriter driver prevent it from selecting a different printer?

A) Yes, but it also prevents the LaserWriter driver from working. To use the LaserWriter driver, it must remain unlocked. If it's locked, you'll get an error message stating the driver was unable to locate the selected printer.

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