



Tech Info Library

WorldScript: Not A Replacement For Unicode (2/95)

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TOPIC -----

What is Unicode and is WorldScript a replacement for it?

DISCUSSION -----

Unicode is an international industry standard used to encode written characters. It's a double byte universal character coding scheme that supports all modern day writing systems. It's been accepted as an ISO standard.

This standard makes it possible to encode all of the characters used for written languages throughout the world in one table. The current North American encoding scheme, ASCII, encodes only the Roman alphabet, which makes support for non-Roman languages difficult. These encoding schemes assume a graphics engine that can display the characters correctly (such as contextual forms or text direction).

WorldScript isn't a replacement for Unicode, but it's the next major step toward providing a multilanguage Macintosh computer. Apple was one of the founding contributors to the Unicode consortium and is an active participant.

Apple's System 7.5 and QuickDraw GX fully support Unicode, including large character set support, linguistic processing, and the Unicode bidirectional reordering algorithm.

Article Change History:

15 Feb 1995 - Reviewed for technical accuracy.
12 Dec 1994 - Added information about System 7.5 and QuickDraw GX.
03 Sep 1993 - Added to definition of Unicode.

Support Information Services

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