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VINES 5.50(1) AFP Problem With Drop Boxes (5/93)

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Revised:        5/18/93
Security:       Everyone
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Article Created: 6 May 1993

TOPIC --

I've been working with Banyan Systems on an AFP and privileges problem. The
Banyan VINES server doesn't seem to support drop boxes properly. I've set
up each user in a workgroup with a single folder, at the workgroup server's
volume root, with owner privileges; then the other user's folders are drop
boxes.

The environment is as follows:

• Banyan server is a Banyan CNS, 8MB RAM
• Server SW is VINES 5.50(1)
• 3Com Etherlink II, with thin Ethernet
• ATT StarLan10 and an ICA card
• Macintosh computers varying with System 6.0.8 or 7.0.1

Two problems were uncovered, and I'm wondering if it's AppleShare working
as expected or Banyan related.

Here is the scenario, call the users UserA and UserB:

1) UserA has a folder containing files on his hard drive. If this folder is
   dragged onto their server folder, the data copies successfully.

   If UserA drags this folder onto UserB's server folder (seen as a drop
   box), part way through the copy a message appears, folder cannot be
   written because it can't be found. Then a second error is displayed,
   the (contained) file cannot be copied due to a disk error.

   An unacceptable workaround is to copy the local folder to your own
   server folder, and then drag it onto the drop box destination. This
   creates a two step process which also introduces issues related to the
   privileges of the moved folder.

2) UserA has copied the local folder to UserB's drop box and received the
   mentioned errors. UserB looks in his folder and sees a "belted" folder.
   When I Checked "Sharing..." from the File menu for the received folder,
   it showed Owner=UserA and no privileges for anyone else.   This received
   folder shouldn't have those rights assigned to it. After changing the
   privileges I found nothing in the received folder.

Any help determining an effective way to create functional drop boxes on
VINES 5 would be appreciated.

DISCUSSION --

These behaviors are definitely not typical for AFP. Drop boxes should not
issue any type of error message when something is "dropped" into them. The
contents of the drop box should most definitely be visible to the box
owner.

We escalated the issue to Banyan Support and the response from Technical
Support and Engineering was as follows:

• The current revision 5.50(1) doesn't support folders dropped into drop
  boxes.

• The new revision 5.52(5) doesn't support folders dropped into drop boxes.

• There was no time estimate on when this feature will be supported.

You may want to ask Banyan Systems for some possible workarounds to provide
"similar" functionality.

To locate a vendor's address and phone number, use the vendor name as a
search string.

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Tech Info Library Article Number:12067