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At Ease and At Ease for Workgroups 1.0 and 2.0: Differences

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TOPIC -----

This article outlines the differences between:

• At Ease 1.0 and 2.0

• At Ease for Workgroups 1.0 and 2.0

• At Ease 2.0 and At Ease 2.0 for Workgroups

DISCUSSION -----

How At Ease 2.0 Differs from 1.0

At Ease 2.0 no longer saves memory over the Finder. In 1.0, it was reported that using At Ease would add another 100-200K of free memory for applications. Due to the increase of code size, this statement is no longer valid in 2.0. The memory footprint is about the same.

In 1.0, for each file a user saved, At Ease had an option to automatically create an alias (button) for the file. In 2.0, a button is only created if the user saves a document inside the user's documents folder. As this folder is the default location to save documents, this will be the standard case. However, if the user has the capability to move outside of the user's folder, the document may be "lost" and won't show up in the At Ease user's panel. The administrator can turn on the "Save documents only in user's panel" option to prevent the user from moving out of the user's folder.

When you start up your computer as a single user, you now see a splash screen that shows an administrator-defined greeting. However, a major feature of At Ease 2.0 is the ability to support multiple users, and in multi-user mode the login screen shows a list of names in a scroll box.

The new product now provides customers with the flexibility to share a single system with up to 10 named users, providing each user with customized

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and private At Ease folders. The At Ease Setup control panel was removed and replaced by a standalone application called At Ease Setup. The setup application features enhanced file management, security and privacy capabilities, providing owners with the ability to customize At Ease folders for each user.

You can choose to see Minimal or All menu items, and with the Speech Manager installed, At Ease 2.0 can use text-to-speech to read the icon names as the pointer passes over them. You can also attach a sound to a button that will play when the cursor passes over the button.

At Ease 2.0 allows an owner of a single Macintosh system to specify whether users can open and save documents anywhere, only in the user's folder, only on a floppy disk, or start up directly in the Finder. Owners also can allow other At Ease users to have basic file management capabilities, such as the ability to create new folders, and delete, rename, and copy their own documents without going to the Finder.

How At Ease for Workgroups 2.0 Differs from 1.0

The features in At Ease 2.0 for Workgroups are designed specifically for administrators who manage multiple Macintosh systems in workgroup settings. Using a single setup program, administrators can specify a number of options for up to 1,000 users and 200 groups on each Macintosh system. This capability allows administrators to determine which applications and files are available to specific groups of users, while preserving customized individual user settings.

The setup program in At Ease 2.0 for Workgroups also gives administrators the ability to specify password requirements and provide users with simple file management capabilities, such as creating folders and renaming files. In addition, administrators can change and update At Ease settings on multiple Macintosh computers over an AppleTalk network, further increasing management flexibility. The networking features of At Ease 2.0 for Workgroups also allows administrators to establish servers for storage of users' documents or applications.

How At Ease 2.0 for Workgroups Differs from At Ease 2.0

At Ease for Workgroups has all the features described for At Ease 2.0, plus these additions and exceptions.

In At Ease 2.0 for Workgroups, there's an additional category for log in called At Ease Setup, to group users into common setup categories. And the setup for Menus allows much more customization than At Ease 2.0. It provides the ability to launch directly into the Finder and open Startup items, and there's a menu item to have users save documents on an AppleShare volume.

An administrator can arrange to have a set of Macintosh computers configured over a network. Logging the activity of users is also a feature of At Ease 2.0 for Workgroups that isn't available in At Ease 2.0.

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You can lock the volume so that when a user boots from another disk, the At Ease disk won't mount. This prevents the unauthorized user from copying or changing the contents of the drive. The Workgroup Security Setup Screen also allows choices for the user to change password, log out idle user after a specified number of minutes, allow applications used from floppy disks, and allow remote administration.

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