Tech Info Library

Startup Items Folder: Items Don't Always Launch (9/93)

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Security:       Everyone


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TOPIC -------------------------------------------------------------


Sometimes when starting up a Macintosh, the system seems to ignore
anything placed in the Startup Items folder (inside the System Folder).
None of the items in the folder get launched on startup. As far as we
can tell, this only happens when a piece of software -- an application,
extension, or control panel -- puts up a dialog box during the startup
process and waits for a user response. For instance, when AppleTalk
Remote Access asks for a password during startup (if set up to require
one, as with a Security Zone implemented) to enable answering calls, no
other items in the Startup Items folder get opened or launched.  (The
ARA password is only requested when the Security Zone has been
implemented.)


DISCUSSION --------------------------------------------------------


The Macintosh handles instructions through what is called an event
queue. All commands line up in the order they are received until the
computer can respond to or take action on them. A piece of software
should look at events as they are coming in, take action on the events
meant for it, and leave events meant for other software intact in the
queue.

But some software doesn't handle this event queue properly. Instead of
ignoring a command not meant for it, the software -- such as the type
that asks for user input on startup -- accepts, and promptly loses, all
commands in the queue. The result is that commands not meant for that
particular application or extension aren't acted upon.

If startup items aren't loading properly, watch the startup process for
any dialog boxes that force interaction from the user. If not written
properly, the software displaying the dialog box may be preventing
items in the Startup Folder from running.
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AppleTalk Remote Access version 1.0 behaves in this way when it's set to require a password on startup, as do some other programs. This characteristic will be fixed in a future version of AppleTalk Remote Access.

If you determine that another program is causing items in the Startup Items folder not to launch, then they may need to be modified as well. Contact the vendor of that software to find out if they are aware of the problem and if a more recent version of the program is available.

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

Article Change History:
13 September 1993 - To add a note about when an ARA password is requested.

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