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AppleSearch & Client for Windows: Description (4/97)

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TOPIC -----

This article provides the description and technical specifications of AppleSearch and AppleSearch Client for Windows.

DISCUSSION -----

AppleSearch is easy-to-use, yet sophisticated, client/server software designed to be a personal assistant—a knowledge navigator that finds information relevant to users' needs, prioritizes it, and keeps users updated if information changes. AppleSearch software helps organizations manage and use the growing stockpiles of electronic information; it lets users on the local area network (LAN) search local servers as well as the vast resources of the Internet from both Macintosh computers and Windows software-based PCs.

A server administrator clicks on a button to index documents such as memos, reports, spreadsheets, and articles from on-line news feeds that reside on the server or a locally mounted volume, making them available as local information sources. Administrators can choose to index an information source immediately or schedule automatic indexing so that users always have access to the latest information. If the server is connected to the Internet, AppleSearch provides a list of all Wide Area Information Servers (WAIS) found on directory servers, allowing the server administrator to select those that are most useful to the organization. Selected WAIS servers can be searched as if they were local information sources, without being indexed by AppleSearch. One connection to the Internet serves up to 50 simultaneously connected AppleSearch users in the LAN.

AppleSearch "reporters" are user-defined search agents that look for and retrieve requested information. Reporters can be created either for immediate use or for ongoing scheduled searches; they look for new or recently modified documents relevant to the search request and automatically deliver the findings in periodic newspaper-style updates.

With AppleSearch, users can choose local and Internet information sources and specify their topic of interest in their own words. And for users familiar with information retrieval, AppleSearch supports the full range of Boolean operators. The feature-rich AppleSearch search engine, from Personal Library Software, processes the request and finds the relevant documents by looking not only for how often the user's words occur, but also for how close the words appear together.

AppleSearch uses XTND file-format translators to extract plain text from various document formats. This means that users can access the text of retrieved documents, even if they don't have the applications used to create the documents—or they can choose to retrieve documents in their original format.

An easy, cost-effective means of managing and finding information from both inside and outside the organization, AppleSearch is the information-retrieval tool of choice for Apple LANs.

Features

Powerful information retrieval

- Helps users take advantage of organizational information stored on local servers, on-line information feeds, and the vast resources of the Internet.
- Searches the full text of documents.
- Provides quick access to the most relevant documents.
- Supports Boolean operators and stemming, proximity, and wild-string searches.

Ease of use

- Allows immediate search results.
- Delivers easy-to-read, personalized updates to the user's desktop on a periodic basis.
- Allows search requests to be entered in the user's own words.
- Enables users to view the text of relevant documents—even if they don't have the applications used to create them—as well as retrieve the actual documents in their original formats.
- Lets users search for and retrieve information from either Macintosh computers or Windows software-based PCs.
- Allows users to work in the operating system environment with which they are most familiar (Mac OS or Windows).

Efficient administration

- Makes it easy to monitor the flow of information and take appropriate security measures.
- Indexes local information sources automatically or on a scheduled basis.
- Lets administrators choose Internet WAIS servers that are useful to the workgroup.
- Supports many client users through a single Internet connection on the server.
- Includes a network license for AppleSearch client for Macintosh and Windows software.

Flexibility

- Can be customized to meet an organization's specific needs.
- Supports up to 50 connected users at a time (including remote or mobile users, via Apple Remote Access software) Compatibility.
- Includes full support for both Macintosh and Windows clients.
- Is compatible with all major brands of PC networking interface cards (via AppleSearch for Windows client software).

Product Details

Setup and configuration

- AppleSearch is quick and easy to install.
- An AppleSearch server supports 50 concurrently connected users; users connect to one AppleSearch server at a time.
- To use the Internet capability of AppleSearch, a server connection to the Internet is required. A direct (not dial-up) connection is recommended.

Information sources

- An information source can be any shared folder on an AppleSearch server volume and can reside on any locally mounted volume such as a hard disk drive or CD-ROM drive.
- Incremental indexing can be scheduled on an hourly, daily, or weekly basis.
- Indexing speed is 10 to 30MB/hour, depending on document format.
- Index files are approximately the same size as the text in source documents.
- If the server is connected to the Internet, the server administrator can select up to 100 WAIS servers listed on WAIS directory servers to appear to users as information sources. AppleSearch automatically scans for new WAIS servers.

Document format independent

Apple's XTND file-format translator technology, in conjunction with MacLinkPlus/AppleSearch, from DataViz, Inc., allows AppleSearch users to view the text of nearly all document types without needing the application that created them.

The following translators are included: MacWrite 4.5, 5.0, and II; Microsoft Word for Macintosh 3.0, 4.0, 5.0, and 5.1; Microsoft Works (word processing) 2.0 and 3.0; PageMaker 4.0; Ragtime 3.1; AppleWorks; WriteNow 2.0 and 3.0; Nisus 3.0; PICT (text extraction only); WordPerfect for Macintosh 1.0, 2.0, and 2.1; FrameMaker MIF 2.0 and 3.0; Microsoft Excel; Microsoft Word for Windows 1.0 and 2.0; and Word Perfect for Windows 5.1.

Reporters and updates

- Reporters contain search criteria defined by the user. Once saved, they reside on the server and can be scheduled to search and retrieve information relevant to the search request on a periodic basis from both local and Internet information sources.
- Results found by a scheduled reporter are automatically formatted in an easy-to-read update and delivered to users on the days and times they

specify.

Security

- Provides password protection to the server.
- Manages search requests based on user and group access privileges defined in AppleShare or Mac OS file sharing.
- If enabled, allows guest users to conduct on-demand searching, but not to save or schedule reporters.

Query features

- Natural-language processing allows users to formulate queries in their own words.
- Relevance ranking—AppleSearch ranks relevancy of documents from both local and Internet sources using one to five stars.
- Additional query features include stemming, and searching by proximity, phrase, co-occurring words, wild strings, and Boolean operators (AND, OR, NOT).

System requirements

AppleSearch Server

- An Apple Macintosh computer with a Motorola 68040 processor, a Power Macintosh, or a Workgroup Server.
- Mac OS software version 7.0 or later.
- At least 8MB of RAM for use with Mac OS file sharing or with AppleShare 3 software; 12MB of RAM for use with AppleShare 4 software; or 16MB of RAM for use with AppleShare Pro software.
- An Apple SuperDrive floppy disk drive.
- An internal hard disk with available storage space equivalent to 2.5 times the space required for the textual content of the source being indexed.
- An optional CD-ROM drive for use with on-line manuals.

AppleSearch Client

Macintosh

- An Apple Macintosh computer with an internal hard disk drive and at least 4MB of RAM.
- Mac OS software version 7.0 or later.
- An Apple SuperDrive floppy disk drive.

Windows

- Any IBM or 100% compatible computer running Intel processor 386 or greater; ISA, MicroChannel, VESA and EISA internal buses; 4MB of RAM.
- Windows or Windows for Workgroups software version 3.1 or 3.11.
- MS-DOS 5.0 or later.
- Ethernet network adapter card.
- NDIS 3.0 or ODI interface driver.

Network requirements

- AppleShare or Mac OS file sharing (AppleShare 4 is recommended to provide a higher-performance configuration that allows a larger number of users).
- An AppleTalk network connection (via LocalTalk, Ethernet, Token Ring, or Apple Remote Access software) between the server and clients; Windows

software-based computers must be connected via Ethernet.

- MacTCP (which is included) to run an Internet connection from the AppleSearch server.

Ordering and Licensing Information

AppleSearch v1.5 Server and Client for Mac OS and Windows

Order No. M2136Z/D, AppleSearch v1.5
M3707Z/A, AppleSearch Client for Windows v1.0
M3333Z/C, AppleSearch v1.5 Update Kit
M3361LL/C, AppleSearch v1.5 Education Kit

- AppleSearch server software
- AppleSearch client software (for both Macintosh and Windows)
- AppleSearch Administrator's Guide
- AppleSearch User's Guide
- Getting Started with AppleSearch
- An electronic version of the manuals on CD-ROM
- MacTCP software and manual
- User license to make unlimited copies of the AppleSearch client for Macintosh and Windows software and documentation

Developer Information

Developer information can be ordered from the APDA Tools Catalog. For a free copy of the catalog, call:

1-800-282-2732 (United States)
1-800-637-0029 (Canada)
(716) 871-6555 (international)

For information about developer licensing, please contact:

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