Tech Info Library

MAE: asdtool For AppleSingle & AppleDouble Conversion (9/95)

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TOPIC ---

I would like to edit a file that was saved in MAE with a UNIX application,
however, I am unable to work with the file. I understand that MAE uses
AppleSingle format to save files to the UNIX file system. How can I work with
these files (like PICT, JPEG, and text) in UNIX without always starting up MAE
with the -filedouble option?

DISCUSSION --

UNIX programs, like vi, do not expect the Macintosh file header, or resource
fork, used in the AppleSingle file format. Converting an AppleSingle file to an
AppleDouble format file will let UNIX programs read it by separating the
resource fork from the data fork.

Apple provides a utility called asdtool to convert AppleSingle format files to
AppleDouble format files and vise versa, with the option of translating a
carriage return to a linefeed, and handling wide chars like Kanji. This utility
is available on:

ftp.support.apple.com:/pub/mae/utilities/asdtool.tar

Follow the steps below to use the asdtool utility:

Step 1

Perform the following command to un-tar the utility:

tar xovf asdtool.tar

Place the appropriate file (asdtool.hp or asdtool.sun) in the /apple/bin
directory. (You can place this file anyplace, but /apple/bin/asdtool would be a
logical place. Also, you can rename the file to asdtool from asdtool.hp or
asdtool.sun.)

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Step 2
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If you desire, add the man page for asdtool (asdtool.1).

• Solaris:
cp ./asdtool.1 /usr/share/man/man1/asdtool.1
catman 1

• HP (Hewlett Packard)
cp ./asdtool.1 /usr/man/man1/asdtool.1
catman 1

Step 3
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To convert an AppleSingle format file to an AppleDouble format file, issue the
following command:

asdtool 'filename'

From within UNIX, you will find that there are now two files associated with the
original, for example, filename_dbl and %filename_dbl.

NOTE: The original AppleSingle format file will be left unchanged.

Step 4
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From a UNIX program, like vi, you can now edit the filename_dbl. (The
%filename_dbl file is the resource fork.)

Step 5
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To convert an AppleDouble format file to an AppleSingle format file, issue the
same command (asdtool 'filename' -- as shown in Step 3). The new file created
will be named, filename_sgl.

NOTE: The filename to use for Step 5, should NOT be the AppleDouble file that
begins with '%' (percent), because asdtool will improperly create the
AppleSingle file from that file.

Step 6
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The asdtool can deduce the source file format and convert to the other file
format, placing the suffix _sgl or _dbl to distinguish the type.

Step 7
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The two options are as follows for asdtool:

-t  Specifies translation of carriage returns to linefeeds.

-w  Specifies source files use wide characters such as Kanji.
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