



# Tech Info Library

## Mac OS 8: About OpenDoc Read Me

### TOPIC

This article is the About OpenDoc Read Me file that comes with Mac OS 8.0.

### DISCUSSION

What is OpenDoc?

OpenDoc is a new plug-in software architecture that lets you extend the usefulness of your applications by easily adding new functionality. OpenDoc uses software components (called parts) that can be dragged-and-dropped into documents created by any OpenDoc-aware application. You can combine parts from different Mac OS software developers to add tables, graphs, outlines, and even live Internet resources into your documents. Since OpenDoc is a cross-platform technology, documents created with OpenDoc can work across different computer platforms, including Mac OS, Windows, UNIX, and OS/2.

What does OpenDoc install?

Installing OpenDoc adds the following items to your computer:

- OpenDoc system software (in the Extensions folder)
- the Editors folder (in the System Folder)
- the Stationery folder (at the root level of your hard disk)

OpenDoc system software

After you install OpenDoc system software, your computer is ready to use OpenDoc parts and

OpenDoc-aware applications from popular Mac OS software developers.

The Editors folder

When you install OpenDoc parts, the part editors are placed in the Editors folder. Editors are like mini-applications that handle different types of data, such as text, graphics, or Internet information.

Once an editor is installed, it works something like a system extension: its functionality is available

but you do not open or use the editor itself. To use an editor, you need to locate the editor's stationery (in the Stationery folder on the root level of your hard drive).

Important: All of your OpenDoc editors should be located in the Editors folder (inside the System Folder). Otherwise, OpenDoc will not be able to locate the editors.

The Stationery folder

When you install an OpenDoc part, part stationery is placed in the Stationery folder. You can either double-click an editor's stationery to create a new document with the editor or drag the stationery into another document to add the editor's functionality to any OpenDoc-aware application or document. OpenDoc stationery can be placed anywhere in your system. You do not have to leave it in the Stationery folder.

Where can I get more information?

For more information about OpenDoc and developers who are producing OpenDoc-aware software, look on the World Wide Web at <http://opendoc.apple.com>.

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