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Macworld[®] Mac[®] OS 9 Bible

Lon Poole and Todd Stauffer



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Apple Guide A help system that provides step-by-step interactive instructions for completing certain tasks.

AppleScript An English-like programming language that you can use to send *Apple events* to programs. With AppleScript you can write your own programs, called *scripts*, to perform complex tasks easily. For example, you can use an AppleScript to move data between many applications.

AppleTalk The networking protocol built into all Mac OS computers and most LaserWriter printers for passing messages and information to each other. The content that is passed back and forth could be *Apple events*, page images to be printed, e-mail, file contents, or any other kind of information. The content and the protocol can be transmitted through *LocalTalk* cabling, *Ethernet* cabling, or other media.

applets Small Java-language programs that are commonly embedded in Web pages to make them more interesting or useful. This term is also used to describe AppleScript scripts that have been saved as small applications.

application program Software that enables a computer to perform a set of related tasks for a specific purpose, such as word processing, working with spreadsheets or graphics, or Web browsing. See *program* and *software*.

application programming interfaces (API) Commands written by operating system programmers to enable application programmers to access the operating system's features.

Application Switcher The floating window that appears when you "tear-off" the Application menu (select the menu and drag straight down with the mouse).

authentication The process of identifying a user's ID and password in order to make a network connection.

autoscrolling The process of scrolling through a window or a list without using the scroll bars by placing the pointer in the window or the list, pressing the mouse button, and dragging toward the area you want to view.

background program A program that runs during the intervals, typically less than one-eighth of a second long, when the active program isn't using the computer. It usually works while the active program waits for you to do something.

balloon help A help system that makes a cartoonlike balloon appear when you drag the mouse slowly over a standard object in the Mac OS interface. The balloon may tell you what the object is, what it does, or what happens when you click it.

binary file A file of formatted text, pictures, sound, movies, other data, or program code.

PostScript printers Printers that interpret PostScript commands to create printable images.

PPD (PostScript Printer Description) A file that contains the optional features of a PostScript printer such as its resolution and paper tray configuration.

PRAM (parameter RAM) A small amount of battery-powered memory that stores system settings such as time, date, mouse tracking speed, speaker volume, and choice of startup disk.

preemptive multitasking A scheme for multitasking applications where the operating system has control over how much processor time each application can use.

Preferences folder Holds files that contain the settings you make in control panels and with the Preferences commands of application programs.

primary script The *language script system* used by system dialog boxes and menus. If you are working on a computer that is set up for English, Roman is your primary script; your secondary script can be any other installed language script, such as Japanese.

printer driver Software that prepares pages for, and communicates with, a particular type of printer. This software resides in the Extensions folder inside the System Folder.

print job A file of page descriptions that is sent to a particular type of printer. Also called a *print request* or *spool file*.

print request See *print job*.

print server A computer or a program on a computer that manages one or more shared printers on a network.

program A set of coded instructions that direct a computer in performing a specific task.

program linking The process of sharing programs by sending and receiving *Apple events* across a network. You must turn on program linking in the File Sharing or Sharing Setup control panel. You can use Finder's Sharing command to enable or prevent linking to individual programs.

protocol See *networking protocol*.

publisher A section of a document, a copy of which has been saved as an *edition* for other documents to subscribe to.