

# INITShare

by Jaap Snijders and Walter Ravenek  
Department of Chemistry, Free University, Amsterdam

INITShare is a Control Panel device that lets you assign an extra "System Folder" that will be searched at startup time for INITs to execute. INITShare is especially useful in an environment with an AppleShare server on a network. By assigning a folder on the server to INITShare, a network administrator can easily maintain the INITs and Control Panel devices that will be executed by the workstations.

## Installation and usage

INITShare is a Control Panel device and should be put in the System Folder. Once the Macintosh is restarted, INITShare is installed in memory and can be accessed through the Control Panel.

When you select INITShare from the Control Panel, a button and a line of text appear. The text specifies the current pathname of the "extra" System Folder. If that name is not valid for your setup, INITShare simply ignores the name. Click the button, and a Standard File dialog appears that lets you choose the extra folder where INITShare should look for your INITs and cdevs. Once you've made your choice, the text in the Control Panel is updated to show the pathname of that folder.

The next time you start up, INITs in your own System Folder will start executing normally. Then, after they have all run, INITShare will direct the operating system to the extra folder where all the other INITs will be executed.

**Note:** make sure to lock any INITs and cdevs you put in a shared INITShare folder.

## Suggestions and warnings

INITShare is especially useful to alleviate the problem of overcrowded Startup disks for network workstations. For example, you can put SuitCase™ on the AppleShare server in the INITShare folder, and then proceed to put just about every font and desk accessory in that folder too. You can also move all the Control Panel devices (including General, Mouse, Keyboard, etc.) to the INITShare folder.

Printer drivers (AppleTalk ImageWriter and LaserWriter, for example) don't work too well when they are shared, because information is constantly being written back into the drivers. So you are advised to keep printer drivers in your own System Folder. We also found out that the BroadCast Chooser device crashed when it was being shared, so beware! And of course you will still need to keep the AppleShare Chooser device on your own startup disk, otherwise no server will be available for INITShare to access.

On the other hand, lots of INITs and cdevs work excellently when shared: Pyro, QuickerGraf, Responder and Kolor, to name but a few ... have fun!