# Macintosh
# Technical Notes

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Developer Technical Support

## #75:    Apple's Multidisk Installer

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   1991
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This Technical Note documents Apple's Multidisk Installer, and it is in
addition to separate Installer documentation which provides the details of
writing scripts.

**Changes since February 1991:**  Revised information about where to find
the Multidisk Installer reference suite.

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Apple's Multidisk Installer is intended to make it easy for Macintosh users
to add or update software.  It is a very useful tool for adding third-party
software, and Apple recommends that you use the Installer unless your
software installation is simple.  Apple also recommends that you use
version 3.1 of the Installer until version 3.2 is available.

The Multidisk Installer has the following features, as of version 3.1:

- "Easy Install" mode where the Installer script writer can
  determine the appropriate installation based upon examination
  of the target environment and provide the user with "One-Button
  Installation"
- An optional "Custom Install" mode where power users can
  customize their installation
- "Live" installation to the currently booted and active System;

this means it is no longer necessary to ship the Installer on a bootable disk with a System Folder

- Ability to install from an AppleShare server ("Network Install")
- Ability to install from multiple source disks
- Installation of software to folders other than the System Folder as well as creation of new folders as necessary
- Runs under System 4.2 and later versions
- "User Function" support; this feature provides linkage to developer-defined code segments during Easy Install, so script writers can customize the process of determining what software to install and how to install it
- "Action Atom" support; this feature provides linkage to developer-defined code segments which are called before or after the installation takes place; script writers can use this feature to extend the capabilities of the Installer
- Audit Records; this feature provides the script writer with the ability to record details about an installation so that future installations can be more intelligent

The `'indm'` (default map) resource of Installer 3.0.1 is no longer supported in Installer 3.1 and later versions.  This was used by script writers to implement Easy Install.  It is replaced by `'infr'` (framework) and `'inrl'` (rule) resources.

**Note:**  If the user opens the Installer document rather than the Installer, the wrong Installer may be launched (depending upon the contents of their mounted volumes).  This is only a problem between versions 3.1 and 3.0.x.  If you are developing a 3.1 script, you may want to add an `'indm'` resource that puts up a warning dialog box.  If you are developing a 3.0.x script, you may want to add an `'infr'` and `'inrl'` resource that puts up a `reportSysError` dialog box.  This problem is resolved in

Installer 3.2.

Multidisk Installer version 3.1 is available as a complete reference suite which includes the following:

- *Installer 3.1 Scripting Guide* (dated December 17,1990 on the cover)
- *ScriptCheck User's Manual*
- Installer 3.1 application
- ScriptCheck 2.0b6 (MPW Tool)
- InstallerTypes.r (MPW Rez interface file)

The reference suite for Multidisk Installer 3.1 is available on the Developer CD series (note that documentation on Developer CD V (*Night of the Living Disc*) and Developer CD VI (*Gorillas in the Disc*) is preliminary and partly inaccurate); AppleLink in the Developer Services Bulletin Board, ETO #3 (available from APDA), the latest System Software 7.0 Beta CD-ROM (not including the original b1 release) distributed to Apple Partners and Associates, and on the Apple FTP site (IP 130.43.2.3) on the Internet.

Multidisk Installer version 3.2 will be released soon. It contains a few minor improvements that will make it easier to write scripts that work on both system 6.0.x and 7.0. Installer 3.1 has had minimal testing with System 7.0. If you are expecting to install software onto machines running System 7.0, then you should consider upgrading. Script changes should be minimal.

Installation of software is a nontrivial process. Apple recommends that you reserve time for development and testing to ensure that the installation process proceeds smoothly on all target machine configurations.

To ship the Installer with your product you must contact Apple's Software

Licensing Department   (AppleLink: SW.LICENSE) and license the Installer alone or with the System Software package that includes the version of the Installer you intend to use.   Software Licensing also supplies you with a copy of the Installer that you may ship.

## Further Reference:

- *Multidisk Installer 3.1 Suite*