

File Sharing Simplified

A Quick and Easy Way to Move Files Between Macs while using any PPC Computer (G1 thru G4) Running Mac OS 8 or 9

Introduction—You have a desktop Mac at home and you’ve just got a new Powerbook or iBook to “take your computing on the road.” Or, perhaps a friend or relative just stopped by with some great new digital pictures on his Mac that you would really like to copy. How do you move all that data from Mac to Mac? Macs don’t have floppy drives now—besides, those huge digital pictures wouldn’t fit on a tiny floppy disk anyway! Oh, what to do—what to do??

Additional Equipment—You’ll need a special **Ethernet** cable that you can purchase at your nearby computer store. It costs less than 10 dollars and is called a “PC to PC, **Category 5 Cross-Over Cable**.” You **MUST** use a **Cross-Over** cable—a **normal** Ethernet cable won’t work with this Mac-to-Mac hookup. Fry’s Electronics have three cross-over cables in their Network Adapters section:

#587269 - 7 feet - \$5.99	#2567911- 7 feet - \$6.49 (Note: This cable has rubber “boots” over the release tabs that aren’t necessary in this application.)
#587279 — 30 feet — \$9.99	



I always keep a 7 foot cable (#587269) in my Powerbook carrying case, just in case I need it.

Hooking them Up—This picture shows a connector jack on the end of your cable. Notice it is similar to a telephone cable jack but larger. The jack goes into the computer port marked with this < · · > icon. It only goes in one way and you have to press the release tab (on the top) to get it back out.

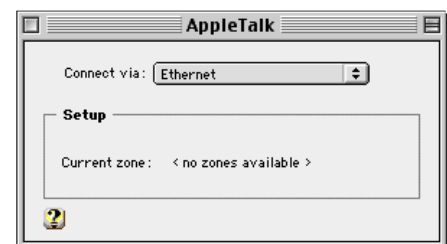
Connect the two Macs together using your new cable. You can plug the jacks in at any time, with the computers either powered on or off. There is no danger of computer damage or personal shock from this cable.



Setting up Apple Talk—You must have Apple Talk active and in the Ethernet mode on both Macs. From the **Apple** menu, open **Control Panels**, then **Apple Talk**. This dialog box opens. On the pop-up menu, select **Ethernet** and close the dialog box. Be sure to set up both Macs.



Check the **Control Strip**. When the **Apple Talk** icon “grows wires,” Apple Talk is on.



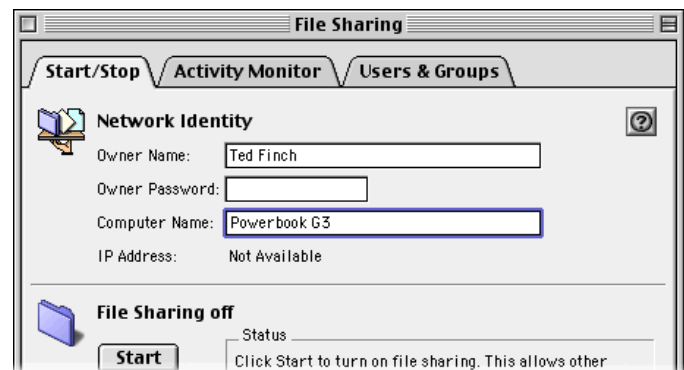
Once **Ethernet** is selected, you can use the **Control Strip** icon to turn **Apple Talk** on-and-off.

Setting up File Sharing—At least one of the Macs must be set up to “share” with the other one, and file sharing should be set up on both Macs.

In the **File Sharing** control panel, under the **Start/Stop** tab, enter your name and computer name. **DON’T** enter a password. Click **Start** to turn file sharing on.

Since you own both Macs, ignore the “security risk” warning by clicking **OK**.

If you’re just moving files, you don’t need to start **Program Linking** or set anything on the **Activity Monitor** or **Users & Groups** tabs. Close the **File Sharing** dialog box.



Once **File Sharing** is on, its **Control Strip** icon “grows wires.”



You can also use the **File Sharing Control Strip** to open its **Control Panel** and turn file sharing on-and-off.

I normally set up File Sharing on both computers. Then I can work from either Mac to share files in the future.



If you set up File Sharing on both Macs, make sure your name is spelled *exactly the same* on both of your Mac's File Sharing Control Panels.

Help With Identification—As you know, the main hard drive on every Mac is named **Macintosh HD** and, once you connect your two Macs together, you may have a problem identifying one “Macintosh HD” from the other. For that reason, I always rename the hard drive on my Powerbook to **Macintosh PB** but you can rename it anything.



If you can't rename your HD, it is because you have Apple Talk on. Click the arrow on its icon in the Control Strip and temporarily turn it off. Rename the HD, then turn it on again.



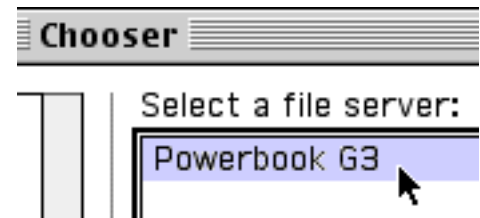
The Set Up is Done!—All the set-up you've done above doesn't have to be “undone” when you are finished transferring files. Isn't that nice?

Let's File Share—We're now ready to share files from one Mac to another. In the following example, I'll copy some files from my Powerbook to my desktop Macintosh HD.

- (1) First, be sure File Sharing is running on the “other Mac” (the one you *are not* sitting at).
- (2) From the **Apple** menu, select the **Chooser**.



- (3) Click the **AppleShare** icon (at left).
- (4) In a moment, the other Mac's name appears (at right). Click the name to highlight it, then click the **OK** button.



When I set up File Sharing on both Macs, I gave each one my name. Now, because of that, I have been declared the registered user of both the Powerbook and my desktop Mac.

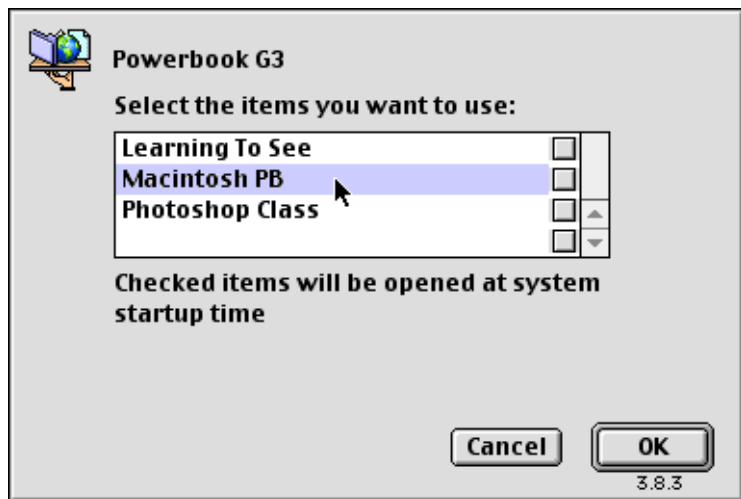
Exception: If I'm not connecting to my own Mac, the other Mac's owner should have set up a password and I must know the password to get connected.

Notice my Powerbook has been declared as a file server—it is going to “serve” files to my desktop Mac (which is the “client” in computer lingo).

- (5) If all is ok, click the **Connect** button.



This dialog box opens, showing me all the items (“drives”) that are mounted on my Powerbook:



- **Learning to See** is a CD-ROM
- **Macintosh PB** is my hard drive, and
- **Photoshop Class** is a Zip disk.

(6) Select the **Macintosh PB** hard drive, then click **OK**.

Finally, an icon representing the Macintosh PB is mounted on the screen of the Mac’s desktop.

The “wires” attached to its icon indicate it *is not* on this computer.



(7) Close the **Chooser** dialog box.

(8) Now open the **Macintosh PB** and use drag-and-drop to copy any or all files in it to *your* Mac’s **Macintosh HD** drive.

Note 1—The above dialog box can be used to mount any or all of the items at the same time. Each will appear as a separate icon on your desktop.

Note 2—If you want files that are on the desktop of the “other Mac,” find its **Desktop Folder** inside the **Macintosh PB** and drag-and-drop the files from there.

Disconnecting—To disconnect from the other Mac, simply drag the **Macintosh PB** shared icon (or icons representing other shared items) to the trash. After this, you can disconnect the Ethernet cable.

Battery Use Warning—If your Mac is battery-powered (a Powerbook or iBook) you should conserve battery power by turning **Apple Talk OFF** when the Ethernet cable is not connected.

Can my Mac Share Files with a PC?—Even though some modern PCs now have Ethernet ports, I can’t find in published documents that there is a simple single-wire way to file share with a PC.

Two Macintosh software programs are available that can share files with PCs, but they aren’t the simple single-wire solution like this one that Apple has provided for us. They are both made by Thursby Software and are called **MacSOHO** and **DAVE**. Both are designed to be used in an office where PCs and Macs are all connected to a LAN (Local Area Network). This table is an overview of their features.

Feature	MacSOHO	DAVE
Shares Files	X	X
Shares PostScript Printers		X
Network Logon		X
For use on Small Networks	X	X
For use on Large Networks		X
For use over Dial-Up Connections		X
Supports Mac OS 8.6 – 9.1	X	X
Supports Mac OS 7.6 – 8.5.1		X
Cost of the Software	\$100	\$150

I’ve also been told (but have never seen it used) that Mac OS 9 and above can see a PC that is file sharing but a PC can’t see a Mac that is file sharing (without special software like those programs above). This is somewhat like the situation where a Mac can read a PC Zip disk but a PC can’t read a Mac Zip disk without special PC software. If I can find a PC user somewhere that will experiment, I’d like to try it.

Ted Finch e-mail: <tedfinch@techie.com> Articles: <<http://amug.org/~srsig/finchfiles.html>>