



---

# Using the Alias Manager in 7.0

---



---

# Introduction to Aliases

---

Phac Le Tuan

Manager, Macintosh System Software

# The Alias Manager

---

- The Impossible Dream
- The Good Old Friend
- Naming Is Knowing

# The Key Issues

---

- Unix links
- The return link
- Real life metaphor

# **System 7.0 Uses the Alias Manager**

---

- Finder Aliases
- Standard File
- Edition Manager
- AppleEvents

# What's Important for You

---

- Use Alias records rather than File IDs
- Use Aliases for Application related files
- Use Standard File
- New opportunities



---

# Uses of Aliases

---

Paul Hudspeth

Product Manager (as seen on TV)

# Accessing Files from Multiple Places

- Better access to files
- Applications with auxiliary files
- Apple Menu Items folder
- Startup Items folder
- Control Panels and DAs



# Organization of HFS volumes

---

- Aliases to containers act like containers
- Aliases to folders and trash
- Shortcut to folder hierarchy in Finder or StdFile

# **Aliases in the Edition Manager**

---

- Tracks location of Edition files

# Aliases to removable media

---

- Works on any ejectable media
- Backups
- Archiving
- Cataloging

# Aliases on AFP Servers

---

- Centrally updated information
- Large files stored on servers
- Chaining aliases
- Aliases to network folders
- Aliases to server volumes
- Chooser alternative



---

# Inside the Alias Manager

---

*Prashant Patel*

System Software Engineer

# What is the Alias Manager?

---

- Facility for tracking files and folders
- Intelligent pointers (alias records) to local and remote objects
- Automounts ejectable and network volumes
- Alias records are separate from catalog entries

# Where Alias Manager is used

---

- Finder
  - Creates and stores alias records
  - Resolves alias when user opens alias icon
- Standard File
  - Resolves alias when user opens it
  - Target volume could be automounted

# Where Alias Manager is used

---

- Edition Manager
  - Creates alias record to published edition
  - Locates edition for publisher and subscribers
- AppleEvents
  - Uses alias records to pass document references



# When should you use Alias Manager?

- Whenever you store specific file or directory info such as pathname, filename, parent dirID, etc...
- Examples:
  - WP document and associated dictionary
  - Referencing files in shared folders

# **FileIDs and the Alias Manager**

---

- Don't Use FileIDs to track files!
- Use PBHExchangeFiles when saving a file
- Implement FileIDs for external file systems
- Implementing non-Mac AFP servers

# What's in an Alias Record?

---

- Target's volume name and creation date
- Target's name and File ID
- Parent name and dirID
- Target's creation date, type, and creator
- Volume mount info
- Other redundant info

# Alias Manager Heuristics

---

- Identify the target volume
  - By same name, creation date, and type
  - By same creation date and type
  - Mount the volume

# Alias Manager Heuristics

---

- Identify the target directly
  - By FileID
  - By name in original parent directory
  - By full pathname
  - By relative path

# Alias Manager Heuristics

---

- Identify the target using exhaustive search
  - Use PBCatSearch by creation date, creator, type
  - If PBCatSearch not available, search volume recursively

# Alias Manager API

---

- NewAlias
  - Creates new alias record for target
  - Allocates memory, stores alias info, returns handle to alias record

# Alias Manager API

---

- ResolveAlias
  - High-level alias resolution
  - Locates the target object
  - Automounts volume, if necessary
  - Updates alias record, if necessary



# Alias Manager API

---

- MatchAlias
  - Low-level alias resolution
  - Application directed search for target
  - Specifies search criterion
  - Caller can filter returned objects
  - Caller can terminate search
  - Caller responsible for updating alias

# Alias Manager API

---

- UpdateAlias
  - Updates alias record for a given target
  - Return flag specifies if alias record was changed

# Alias Manager API

---

- GetAliasInfo
  - Returns info about the target
    - Target name and parent names
    - Target volume name
    - Zone and server name for AFP volumes
  - Returned results may not be current



---

***A REAL* use  
for Aliases !**

---



---

Q&A

---