

Macs vs. PCs: The Suffix Adventure

You've probably heard that's Macs and PCs can't share files. That simply isn't true. However, it is important that you understand how each platform recognize files and follow some simple rules.

How Mac's recognize files:

When you create a file on a Mac, it results in two files a.k.a forks: 1) the **DATA** fork, which contains the actually work you've done 2) and the **RESOURCE** fork which gives your file a pretty little picture and tells the file what application it belongs to.

How the PC recognizes files:

When you create a file on a PC, it creates the equivalent of a data fork, but no resource fork. Instead, Windows uses a 3-character suffix on files to associate programs and "pretty pictures" to each file.

What to do? Quite simple, when you create/save a file on the Mac, which you plan to share with a PC user, make sure you include the correct 3-character suffix (see below). In addition, you should keep your file names under 8 characters and avoid symbols like! @#\$%^&*() Etc...

So instead of naming this file "Macs vs. PCs: The Suffix Adventure", I would name it "suffixad.doc" if I were to share it with a PC user.

Some Popular Suffixes:

.doc	Word
.ppt	PowerPoint
.xls	Excel
.fm3	FileMaker
.jpg	JPEG pictures
.gif	GIF pictures
.tif	TIFF picture
.htm	Web Page
.mov	Quicktime Movie
.aui	Apple Sound File