

# Application Preferences

## Objectives:

At the end of this episode, I will be able to:

1. Describe the various locations macOS applications can store data.
2. Describe the format and function of an Apple plist preference file.
3. Change the default application used when launching a file.

Additional resources used during the episode can be obtained using the download link on the overview episode.

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- Application Binaries
    - Stored in multiple places
      - /Applications
      - /Users/username/Applications
  - Application Files
    - /Users/username/Documents
  - Application Preferences
    - Stored in multiple places
      - /Library/Preferences
      - /Users/username/Library/Preferences
      - /Library/Application Support
      - /Users/username/Library/Application Support
  - Preference Files
    - Stored in \*.plist files
    - `plutil -convert xml1 <file>`
    - `plutil -convert binary1 <file>`
  - File Locking
    - Prevents modification by users
    - Command-I -> General -> Locked
    - `sudo chflags nouchg <file>`
  - Launch Services
    - macOS tracks which programs can open a file type
    - Referred to as *Launch Services*
    - Stored in:
      - /Library/Preferences/com.apple.LaunchServices.plist
      - /Users/username/Library/Preferences/com.apple.LaunchServices.plist
  - Changing the default application for an extension
    - One time
      - Control-Click -> Open With
    - Permanently
      - Control-Click -> Get Info