About Low-Level Events

Low-level events report changes to the hardware made by the user. This includes pressing a key, pressing the mousebutton, inserting a floppy diskette, and similar hardware-related events.

Low-level events are of various types, distinguished according to their origin and meaning. The kinds are:

- keyboard events
- mouse events
- disk-insertion event
- application status events
- certain window events
- application-generated events
- MultiFinder events
- null events

Events that report actions by the user (such as pressing the mouse button, typing on the keyboard, or inserting a disk) and events that report that the **Event Manager** has no other events to report (null events) are called *low-level events* because they report very low-level hardware and software occurrences. The following figure depicts the relationships among the **Operating System Event Manager**, the **Event Manager**, the **Window Manager**, and a single application.

Other low-level events can arise from changes in windows on the screen. For example, if a user has several documents open while running an application, the user can switch from one document to another by clicking in the appropriate window. Before your application is sent such an event, the **Window Manager** does some work for you, such as highlighting the newly activated window and unhighlighting the deactivated window. As illustrated in the next figure, activate and update events are not placed into the event queue but are sent directly to the **Event Manager**.

Applications can generate events themselves and send them (using the **PostEvent** function) to the **Event Manager** for processing. These types of events are application-specific. In an environment where only one application can execute at a time, application-defined events allow your application to send events to itself. You should be careful not to post events that are not normally placed in the event queue (such as activate events).

Note: In System 7.0+, the work done by any of your application-defined events must be accomplished using Apple events or other high-level events.

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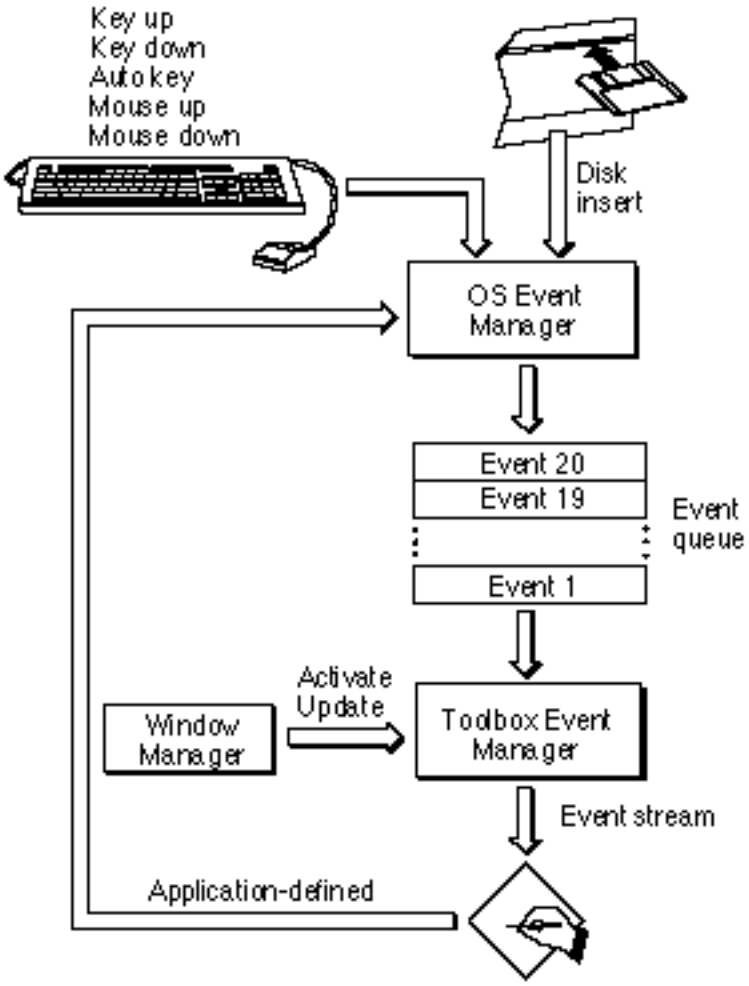

Events in a single application environment

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