Exchanging Message Blocks Between Programs

Using the **Event Manager** or **Apple Event Manager** to send events should meet the needs of most applications for program-to-program communication. However, for low-level control or to get services not provided by the **Event Manager** or **Apple Event Manager**, you can use the **PPC Toolbox**. The **PPC Toolbox** lets you send larger amounts of data to other applications located on the same computer or across a network. The **PPC Toolbox** can also be used by pieces of code that are not event-driven. The **PPC Toolbox** is usually called by the Operating System; device drivers, desk accessories, or other code modules can also use it.

Using the **PPC Toolbox** to send data between programs requires that both your program and the program you're communicating with are open at the same time. To initiate communication, one program opens a port and requests a session with another program. The target program must also open a port and accept the request. Once a session is established, the two programs can read and write low-level message blocks.

See the **PPC Toolbox** for information on reading and writing low-level message blocks between programs.

Remote Data Access

Using the **Data Access Manager**, your application can communicate with databases or other data sources running on a Macintosh computer or on a remote host computer. For example, your application can use high-level routines to open a document containing commands to be sent to a remote data server; initiate communication with the remote data server; send the commands to the server; and (after the server executes the commands) retrieve the requested data from the server. You can also use the **Data Access Manager** to send data to a remote database or other data source.

If your application knows how to create commands for a remote data server, then your application can use low-level routines to send these commands and data directly to the data server.

The Figure below shows how a user in San Francisco might use a spreadsheet application to request data from a company database in New York. The spreadsheet application can use the **Data Access Manager** to request the data from the database. The database application in New York sends back the requested data, and the spreadsheet application can use this data to generate a graph of the information.

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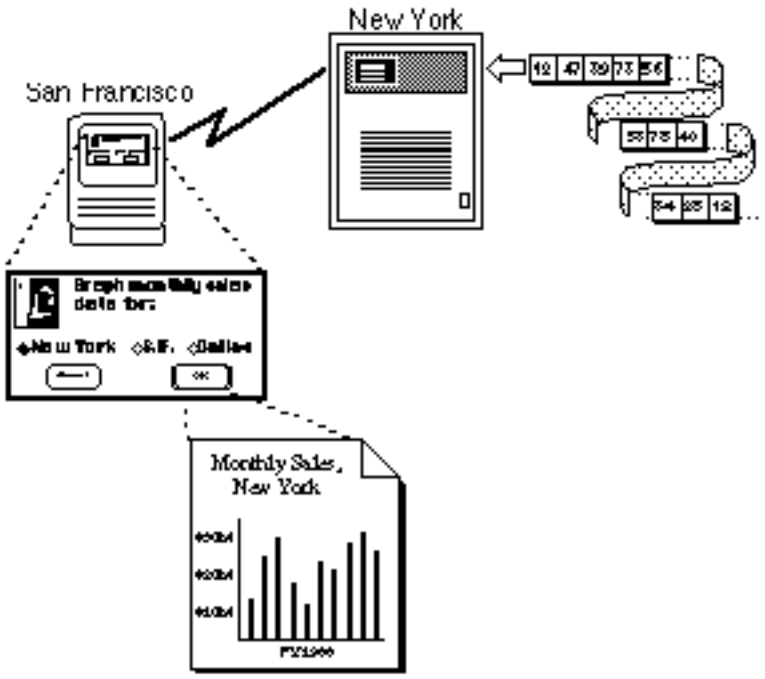

Requesting data from a remote database

See the **Data Access Manager** for information on sending and retrieving information from a remote database or other data source.

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