Stationery Pads

System 7.0 supports stationery pads, which are special documents used as templates. Opening a stationery pad should not open the document itself; instead, it should open a new document with the same contents as the stationery pad. To turn any document into a stationery pad, the user selects it, chooses **Get Info** from the **File** menu, and clicks the **Stationery pad** check box in the information window. The **Finder** tags a document as being a stationery pad by setting the isStationery bit in the file's **Finder** flags field (see **Finder Information in the Volume Catalog** for a description of **Finder** flags).

When the user opens a stationery pad from the **Finder**, the **Finder** first checks your application's 'SIZE' resource to see if your application supports stationery (see **The Size Resource**). If the isStationeryAware bit is not set, the **Finder** creates a new document from the template and prompts the user for a name. The **Finder** then starts up your application as usual, passing it the name of the new document.

If the isStationeryAware bit is set, the **Finder** informs your application that the user has opened a document and passes your application the name of the stationery pad. To support stationery, your application should

- specify the isStationeryAware constant in its 'SIZE' resource

- always check the isStationery bit of a document passed to it by either the **Finder** or the **Standard File Package**

The isStationery bit alone identifies whether a document is stationery. If the isStationery bit is set for a file that the user wants to open, your application should copy the template's contents into a new document and open the document in an untitled window.

As described in the **Standard File Package**, your application can check the sfFlags field of the standard file reply record to determine whether the isStationery bit is set. Unlike the **Finder**, the **Standard File Package** always passes your application the stationery pad itself, not a copy of it, regardless of the setting of the isStationery bit. When the user opens a stationery pad from within your application, the **Standard File Package** checks your application's 'SIZE' resource. If your application does not support stationery, the **Standard File Package** displays an alert box warning the user that the stationery pad itself, not a copy of it, is being opened. As you can see, the user can still easily change the template and mistakenly write over it by choosing **Save** without assigning a new name. You can prevent this unnecessary user frustration by making your application stationery-aware.

You can supply the icon to be displayed for stationery pads created from your application's documents by using the resources described in **Finder-Related Resources**.

If you do not supply your own stationery pad icon, the **Finder** uses the default stationery pad icon illustrated in the first figure in Icon resources.

In your documentation, tell users to choose the **Get Info** command to make stationery pads. You may also want to give examples of useful stationery pads

created with your application. For example, if your application supports text and graphics, you may provide samples of stationery pads for business letterheads or billing statements.