Finder-Related Resources

The **Finder** needs quick access to some key information about your application, including its signature and the icons to display for it and for the documents it creates. You supply most of this information in the resource fork of your application file.

The **Finder** extracts this information and uses it to maintain its own central database of the resources it needs. The **Finder** records the location of your application on disk in this database so that it can find your application quickly when the user opens one of your documents.

For compatibility with the **Finder**, your application should have:

- a signature resource, so that the **Finder** can identify and start up your application when a user double-clicks documents created by your application

- a set of icon resources, to visually represent for the user your application and any documents it creates

- a set of file reference resources, to link icons with the file types they represent and to allow users to launch your application by dragging document icons to your application icon

- a bundle resource, to group together your application's signature, icon, and file reference resources

- a size resource, to tell the **Finder** how much memory to allocate for your application when it starts up and whether your application supports various system software features

- either a name string resource in your application's documents (to display the name of your application if the user tries to open or print a document created by your application when your application is missing) or a message string resource in your application's documents (to explain why the user can not open or print a document used by your application). For more information, see the section, **Messages When the Finder Can not Find Your Application**.

Note: Supply a name string resource for documents that you intend for users to open with your application; supply a message string resource for documents (such as a preferences file) that your application uses but which users should not open. You supply only one of these resources in a document-never both.

Your application can also make use of these resources:

- version resources, so that users can easily find out the version of your application and, if applicable, the version of your application's superset of files

- a help resource, which the **Finder** uses to display your customized Balloon Help message for your application, control panel, system extension, or desk accessory icon. See **Balloon Help for Icons**.

If you sell or distribute data in the form of a document to be used by other applications, you can assist users by providing

- an appropriate <u>file type</u> to allow users to open your document from the **<u>Finder</u>** by dragging its icon to an application icon or by choosing the Open command from the File menu within an application

- a family of <u>icon resources</u> to represent your document to the user

- a name string resource or message string resource, so the **<u>Finder</u>** can assist users who try to open or print your documents from the **<u>Finder</u>**. For more information, see the section entitled, **<u>Messages When the Finder Can not Find Your Application</u>**.

- <u>version resources</u>, so that users can easily find out the version of your application and, if your application file is one of a larger collection of files, the version of the entire superset of files