

Resolving Alias Files

The **ResolveAliasFile** function is part of the **Alias Manager** and is available only in System 7.0. Use the **Gestalt** function with the **Gestalt** selector **gestaltAliasMgrAttr** to determine whether you can use the **ResolveAliasFile** function.

An alias file contains an alias record, stored as a resource of type 'alis', that points to the target of the alias. The alias file might also contain the target object's icon descriptions. The **Finder** identifies an alias file by setting the **isAlias** bit in the file's **Finder** flags field (For a description of **Finder** flags see, **Finder Information in the Volume Catalog**).

An alias file that represents a document typically has the same type and **creator** as the file it represents. However, many desktop objects-such as disks, folders, and the Trash-do not have **file types**. Instead, alias files for these objects are assigned special **file types**, called *alias types*. Here are the alias types for those desktop objects for which users can provide aliases:

| Desktop object | type | Alias Constant |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|--|
| Apple Menu Items folder | 'faam' | <u>kAppleMenuFolderAliasType</u> |
| AppleShare drop folder | 'fadr' | <u>kDropFolderAliasType</u> |
| Application | 'adrp' | <u>kApplicationAliasType</u> |
| Control Panels folder | 'fact' | <u>kControlPanelFolderAliasType</u> |
| Exported AppleShare folder | 'faet' | <u>kExportedFolderAliasType</u> |
| Extensions folder | 'faex' | <u>kExtensionFolderAliasType</u> |
| File server | 'srvr' | <u>kContainerServerAliasType</u> |
| Floppy disk | 'flpy' | <u>kContainerFloppyAliasType</u> |
| Folder | 'fdrp' | <u>kContainerFolderAliasType</u> |
| Hard disk | 'hdsk' | <u>kContainerHardDiskAliasType</u> |
| Mounted AppleShare folder | 'famn' | <u>kMountedFolderAliasType</u> |
| Other objects that can contain files | 'drop' | <u>kContainerAliasType</u> |
| Preferences folder | 'fapf' | <u>kPreferencesFolderAliasType</u> |
| PrintMonitor Documents folder | 'fapn' | <u>kPrintMonitorDocsFolderAliasType</u> |
| Shared AppleShare folder | 'fash' | <u>kSharedFolderAliasType</u> |
| Startup Items folder | 'fast' | <u>kStartupFolderAliasType</u> |
| System Folder | 'fasy' | <u>kSystemFolderAliasType</u> |
| Trash | 'trsh' | <u>kContainerTrashAliasType</u> |

(The Extensions, Preferences, Apple Menu Items, Control Panels, Startup Items, and PrintMonitor Documents folders are described in

The System Folder and Its Related Directories)

Since users of System 7.0 can replace files with aliases, if your application opens a file or a directory without going through the **Finder** or the **Standard File Package** (if, for example, it uses preference files or dictionary files), it should always call the **ResolveAliasFile** function just before opening the file.