

About the Resource Manager and System 7.0

The **Resource Manager** describes the resource types that are available for your application's use (see **Application Resource Types**), and the new technique for reading or writing part of a resource instead of an entire resource (see **Using the Resource Manager**). The standard resource types found in the System file in System 7.0 are listed under **Resources in the System File**.

The ability to use partial resources is available only in System 7.0 and later. To check for the existence of the new partial resource routines, use the **Gestalt** function.

Resources

A resource consists of data or code stored in a resource file. A resource fork is the part of a file that contains data used by an application, such as menus, fonts, and icons. An executable file's code is also stored in the resource fork. The **Resource Manager** distinguishes resources by their resource types and resource IDs. The resource type is always a sequence of four alphanumeric characters (including the space character). For instance, 'MENU' is the resource type for a menu. A resource ID is a number that, together with the resource type, uniquely identifies a particular resource. Resources can be created from textual descriptions by resource compilers, such as the Rez compiler in the Macintosh Programmer's Workshop (MPW).

Note: Your application should not depend on any specific resource being in ROM or in the System file. The resource types available in ROM vary. A resource that *is* in ROM may not be available because the System file may override any resource in ROM, making it unavailable or replacing it with a resource from the System file.

Resource Types

A resource type can be any sequence of four alphanumeric characters, including the space character. You can create resource types for your applications, provided the type names you choose consist of all uppercase letters and do not conflict with the resource types already created. Apple reserves any other combination. (The standard Roman character set can be found in the **Font Manager** description.)

The System file contains system resources, the standard resources for the Macintosh computer that are shared by all applications. The Table in **Application Resource Types** lists all the resource types in the System file that your application can use. Uppercase resource types are listed first.