About the Notification Manager Information on providing "alert" messages

This topic covers how to apply routines that let you tell users there is something happening they need, or want, to be aware of. Notification Manager (for System 6.0 and later) can be set to asynchronously (for more information, see Async I/O) produce a sound, flash a dialog box, or periodically swap the on the menu bar with a different Small Icon to let the user know something needs attention. A small may (optionally) appear on the Apple menu next to the application or DA the Notification references. (Under System 7, the small appears in the Application menu next to the application or DA the Notification references. See the section **About the Notification Manager and System 7.0** for more information.) Lastly, the Notification Manager should call a response procedure.

The small next to the affected application and the Small Icon rotating with the on the menu bar remain until your application removes the notification request from the queue. The sound and the dialog box each occur one time.

Note: Under System 7, the Small icon may appear over the application menu icon (to the right of the menu bar) instead of the icon if you prefer. See **About The Notification Manager and System 7.0** for details. Also the small will appear next to the name of the application or DA that needs attention in the application menu.

Using the Notification Manager requires a call to SysEnvirons (or Gestalt Manager) to test the System Software version. If the user isn't running at least System 6.0 and the Notification Manager routines are not present, your application should let them know they need to upgrade their operating system version by displaying an alert and then exiting.

While there's no limit to the number of notifications you can queue in an NMRec for any application, DA, or device driver, you should also be aware that multiple notifications in the queue will result in multiple messages.

The Notification Manager NMRec is a standard Macintosh queue and contains information describing each notification request. Supply a pointer to a queue element describing the type of notification you desire.

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