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## Customized Icons

You can create customized icons for your documents. Users can also create customized icons. Customized icons are stored with resource ID -16455 in the resource fork of the file. (Compare this to the method described in **Finder-Related Resources** whereby icons are defined through a bundle resource and its associated icon list and file reference resources.)

In System 7.0, the user can customize individual icons. By selecting a file and choosing Get Info from the File menu, the user sees the information window for that file. The user can then select the icon displayed in the upper-left corner of the information window and use the Paste command in the Edit menu to replace it with a picture from the Clipboard. The **Finder** creates a family of icons based on the user's customized icon, assigns a resource ID of -16455 to each icon resource in the family, stores these resources in the resource fork of the file that the icon represents, and sets the hasCustomIcon bit in the file's **Finder** flags field.

Your application can use the same strategy to provide customized icons to the documents that it creates. For example, a drawing application might create miniature versions of the illustrations contained within its documents and use those for the documents' icons.

If you are a database developer who creates and distributes query documents that support the **Data Access Manager**, you can also use this strategy to create icons that identify your database's query documents. Similarly, if instead of producing an application you produce and distribute information (such as database files, stationery pads, clip art libraries, or dictionaries) to be used by other applications, you might want to provide icons that distinguish your documents.

To make the System 7.0 **Finder** display customized icons for a document, you must create at least an 'ICN#' resource with resource ID -16455 and store it in the document's resource fork. (To create this while your application is running, your application can call the **AddResource** procedure, described in the **Resource Manager**.) You can use the following constant in place of the ID number.

kCustomIconResource =        res ID for custom icon

If you provide only an 'ICN#' resource, the **Finder** uses a black-and-white icon on all screen displays and automatically reduces it when a small version of the icon is required. To create color versions and to define a small version of the icon, create an entire icon family as described in Icon resources.

After creating icon resources with the kCustomIconResource constant as their IDs, you must set the hasCustomIcon bit in the file's **Finder** flags field. To prevent users from changing these icons, set the nameLocked bit in the file's **Finder** flags field. (Most development environments for System 7.0 provide tools for setting these bits. Finder Information in the Volume Catalog describes **Finder** flags.)

**Note:** If you want your document to appear with its own icons on earlier versions of system software, you must create a file reference resource and a bundle resource.