
About the Apple Event Manager

This page describes Apple events and how your application can use the **Apple Event Manager** to receive and process the required set of Apple events sent by the Finder. The **Apple Event Manager** can be used to send Apple events to other applications and to process Apple events received from other applications.

As explained in the **Event Manager** description, the **Event Manager** in system 7.0 introduces high-level events, along with a number of new **Event Manager** routines that let applications communicate with each other by sending high-level events. Using **Event Manager** routines, your application can create and process its own high-level events. The term **Event Manager** refers to the **Toolbox Event Manager**.

However, effective interapplication communication requires that applications agree on a standard set of conventions—a common vocabulary. To provide such a standard, Apple has defined a protocol called the **Apple Event Interprocess Messaging Protocol (AEIMP)**. High-level events that adhere to this protocol are called **Apple events**. You can help ensure effective communication with other applications by using this protocol.

System software uses Apple events to communicate information to your application; you should support the required set of Apple events sent by the Finder to your application. In addition, you can support Apple events that are common to many applications. Using **Apple Event Manager** routines, you can use Apple events to communicate with other applications in a standard way. Using Apple events to ensure better cooperation between your application and other applications helps users to get the most out of any one application or to use the best features from many applications—in effect, combining the features of many applications to achieve the desired result.

By following the standards specified by **AEIMP**, you can also define your own Apple events. You can choose to publish these so that other applications can use them, or you may choose to keep them unpublished for exclusive use by your own applications.

The **Apple Event Manager** is available only in system 7.0. To determine whether the **Apple Event Manager** is available, use the **Gestalt** function.

The interapplication communications architecture of system 7.0 consists of three main components:

- **Apple Event Manager**
- **Toolbox Event Manager**
- **Program-to-Program Communications (PPC Toolbox)**

If you intend to use high-level events that do not rely on AEIMP, read the **Toolbox Event Manager** description—it describes the information you need to know to support Apple events in your application. To allow your application to send Apple events to applications on remote computers, you may wish to use the **PPCBrowser** function, which is described in the **PPC Toolbox**.

For descriptions of all publicly available Apple events, see the *Apple Event*

Registry, available from Macintosh Developer Technical Support.