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## About the PPC Toolbox

This topic describes how you can use the Program-to-Program Communications (PPC) Toolbox to send and receive low-level message blocks between applications.

The **PPC Toolbox** can be used by different applications located on the same computer or across a network of Macintosh computers. The **PPC Toolbox** is available only in System 7.0 or above. To test for the existence of the **PPC Toolbox**, use the **Gestalt** function.

Read this topic if you want your application to transmit and receive data from other applications that support the **PPC Toolbox**.

Applications that utilize the **PPC Toolbox** must be open and connected to each other to exchange data. The **PPC Toolbox** allows you to send large amounts of data to other applications; it is typically useful for code that is not event-based. The **PPC Toolbox** is called by the Macintosh Operating System and can also be called by applications, device drivers, desk accessories, or other programs.

The **PPC Toolbox** provides a method of communication that is particularly useful for applications that are specifically designed to work together and are dependent on each other for information. For example, suppose one user organizes large amounts of data using a database application and another user filters and plots the same data using a plotting application. If both applications use the **PPC Toolbox**, these two applications can directly transmit data to each other when both applications are open and connected to each other.

You can also use the **PPC Toolbox** if your application communicates with other applications using high-level events or Apple events, and your application allows the user to choose another application to communicate with. You can use a **PPC Toolbox** routine that provides a standard user interface to display a dialog box on the user's screen that lists other applications that are available to exchange information.

The **PPC Toolbox** uses the AppleTalk Data Stream Protocol (ADSP) and the Name-Binding Protocol (NBP). For detailed information on ADSP or NBP, see the **AppleTalk Manager** description.

**Note:** The sample applications "store data," "display data," "send and receive," "make memo," and "spell quick" used in this discussion are not actual Apple products. They are used for illustrative purposes only.

The **PPC Toolbox** provides you with the ability to

- exchange data with other open applications on the same computer or across a network of Macintosh computers
- browse through a listing of applications that are available to exchange data
- verify user identities for communication across a network

To utilize the **PPC Toolbox** to exchange data between open applications, each application involved must support the **PPC Toolbox**.

The **PPC Toolbox** topics detail how to

- set up your application for communication
- use security features prior to establishing communication
- locate other applications that can exchange data
- initiate communication between applications
- accept or reject incoming communications requests
- transmit and receive data between applications
- terminate communication between applications