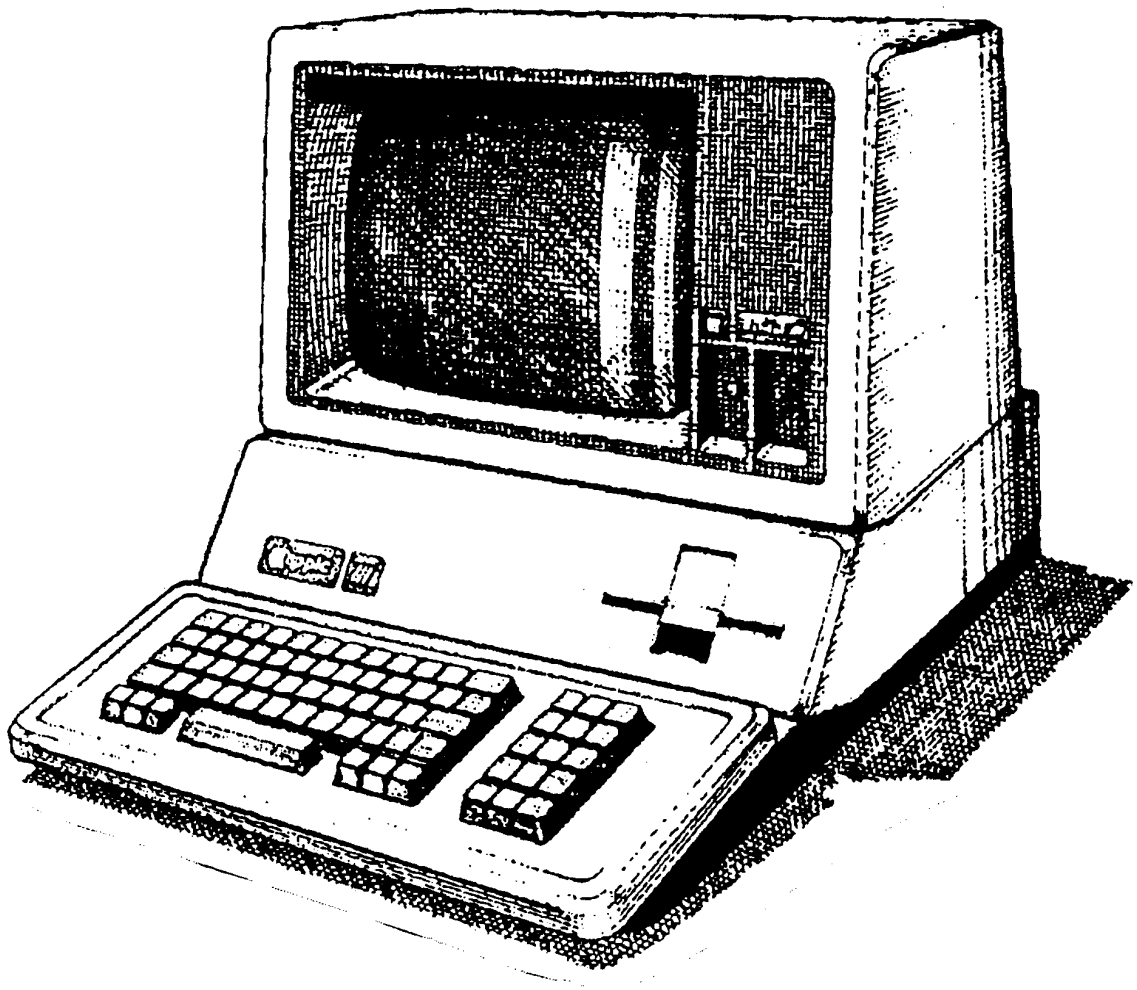
Apple /// Computer Information



DOCUMENT NAME

HOW TO "HIDE" SOS FILES

1985

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Ex Libris David T. Craig

"_92.PICT" 234 KB 2001-08-29 dpi: 300h x 300v pix: 2161h x 2893v

How to "hide" SOS files

Locking SOS Files
From: Frank W. Moore

Aug 31, 1985

Something interesting I found out a few days ago (and probably all of you knew already). Have you heard of MS-DOS programs that 'lock' diskettes and make them inaccessable unless you use a special password to unlock them?? You can do something similar in SOS.

Each volume/sub-directory/file has 39 bytes of directory information that sets the access information, such as the ability to write to the file. Normally, when we 'lock' a file the ability to write, rename and destroy a file is removed.

SOS has the ability to control each of these options individually. You could, for example, set the file to forbid write operations but allow renaming or even the destruction or the file. You can also make the volume/sub-directory/ file unreadable by the changing of one bit of the access byte! If the first bit is set to zero, a volume or sub-directory cannot be cataloged, or a file cannot be read! Strangely, an 'unreadable' volume or sub-directory does not prevent a readable file from being accessed IF you know the files name.

From: Neil Quellhorst
One thing to remember ... when you use the system utilities file lock/unlock command it resets the file protect bits. Try it and see.

03/19/1986 19:51:02
Does this mean that some programs that System Utilities says it can not read (i.e. Backup III, Emulation, etc) can be read by modifying the diskette directory?
Jeff Fritz
Box 546
Williamson, WV 25661

03/20/86 00:05:43
Jeff: In the cases you mentioned, it will still NOT be possible. Backup /// uses its own record formatting technique that packs data on a diskette differently, which is why Sys. Utils can't read it. The Emulation disk is not readable by Sys. Utils since its not a totally legal SOS disk. I don't believe it has a catalog. It simply loads blocks of code into memory to emulate the][ROMs.

The access bit that Frank talks about above is used to "hide" a file. Let's say you've got a spreadsheet that you really don't want your local IRS auditor to know is there. In a heavy audit with possibility of fraud, the IRS will impound your computer and all files. If this bit was turned "on", they would never know the file was there. Of course, since you've got an Apple ///, they probably wouldn't even know how to turn it on, anyway!!!.

If you want to read more info on the access byte, and on the format and organization of disk directories, sub-directories, and files then check out pages 77-91 of Volume I of the SOS Reference Manual.

Regards.....Ed Gooding

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