
Subject: Re: Mac Cursor

Posted by [K. Bowman](#) on Tue, 07 Nov 2006 19:35:55 GMT

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In article <eiqmc3\$vh\$1@news.nems.noaa.gov>,
Paul van Delst <Paul.vanDelst@noaa.gov> wrote:

> That's probably not a problem because OSX is not a true Unix. For a start, it's not truly
> case sensitive. I mean, jeez! I have a subversion repository directory (built from my
> linux desktop) that contains my current, brain dead error handler "Message_Handler.f90" as
> well as a not-ready-for-prime-time stack-based error handler module "message_handler.f90".
> When I check out that directory, all hell breaks loose on my mac coz it can't tell the
> difference between the two.

Case-sensitivity is a property of the filesystem. OS X supports several options there, including standard Unix UFS, MS-DOS, and several flavors of the Mac "native" filesystem, HFS.

When you initialize/partition a disk with HFS you can choose journaled/non-journaled and case-sensitive/non-case-sensitive. Unfortunately, in 10.4 you cannot use a case-sensitive volume as a boot volume. I expect that will change in 10.5 (next spring), along with full 64-bitness. I currently create my external volumes as case-sensitive.

By the way, HFS is case-preserving, but not case-sensitive, so you can end up with confusion when you have file names that differ only in case.

This is a hassle, but Apple has been moving to change their legacy non-case-sensitive filesystem to fully case-sensitive. (In my experience newbies are often quite confused by case-sensitive systems, so there are some arguments for that approach.)

There are faint rumors that Apple might provide a "modern" filesystem such as ZFS as an option, but no firm info.

Ken Bowman
