Chapter 3 Macintosh Systems

Chapter Overview

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Chapter Overview

This chapter explains how to use NCSA XDIFF/XFIX on a Macintosh system to maintain duplicate text files.

The chapter assumes that you know how to use the mouse, select items from menus, and locate files using directory dialog boxes. If you are unfamiliar with the Macintosh user interface or need more detailed information regarding these procedures, please refer to your Macintosh user's guide.

Creating Control Copies

Before you edit your code or use NCSA XDIFF/XFIX, do the following:

1. Make sure that you have identical versions of the text file on the local and remote systems.

2. Create a control copy of the text file on both the local and the remote systems, as instructed in the steps outlined below.

To create a control copy of the file on your Macintosh, perform the following steps:

1. Access the Finder or MultiFinder.

2. Select the file by clicking the file icon.

3. Choose Duplicate from the File menu or press -D.

NOTE: NCSA XDIFF/XFIX is designed to compare ASCII text files. Consequently, if you edit your file in a word processing application such as MacWrite or Microsoft Word, you must save the file in ASCII format, or *text* (with line breaks), to enable NCSA XDIFF/XFIX to read it.

Creating an Update File

After you edit the original file on your Macintosh, you can create an update file. Before creating the update file, verify that you have two unedited versions of the file on the remote machine and both and edited and control version on the local machine.

To create an update file, run NCSA XDIFF on your local machine. NCSA XDIFF compares the current, edited version of the file to your saved, control copy of the original file and writes any changes you have made to the update file.

Running NCSA XDIFF

To execute NCSA XDIFF, do the following:

1. Access the Finder or MultiFinder.

2. Double-click on the NCSA XDIFF application or program icon.

The XDIFF program icon is shown in Figure 3.1.

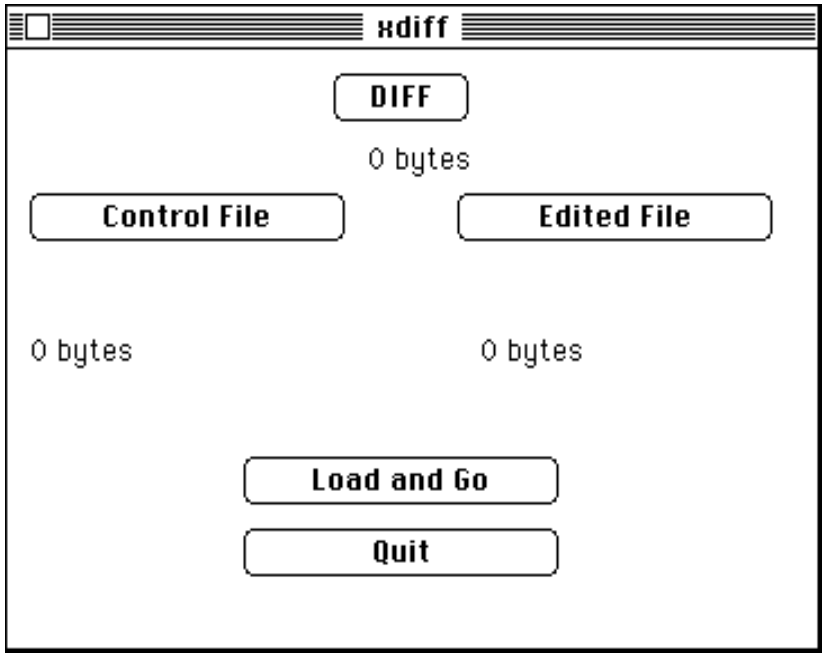
Figure 3.1 XDIFF Program Icon

The startup dialog box shown in Figure 3.2 appears briefly to introduce NCSA XDIFF.

Figure 3.2 XDIFF Startup Dialog Box

The startup dialog box disappears and is replaced by the *control window*, shown in Figure 3.3. The control window contains several buttons that allow you to specify which files to compare.

Figure 3.3 XDIFF Control Window



Using the Control Window

The control window lets you designate the control copy and edited file for NCSA XDIFF to compare, execute NCSA XDIFF, and perform repeated comparisons of the specified files.

To use the control window, perform the following steps:

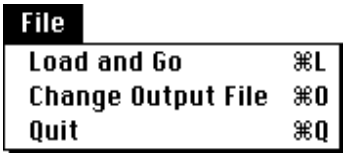
1. Click Control File to specify the control file. In the dialog box that appears, select and open the control file. The name of the selected file appears under the Control File button in the control window.

2. Click Edited File to specify the edited file. In the dialog box that appears, select and open the edited file. The name of the selected file appears under the Edited File button in the control window.

3. Click DIFF to run NCSA XDIFF. NCSA XDIFF compares the two files and produces an update file, named Xdiff.up by default, that contains just the differences between the two files. This file is ready to be transferred to the remote system (for instructions on changing the default name of the update file, see the following section, "Changing the Name of the Update File").

   NOTE: If you wish to continue editing your file before updating the corresponding file on the remote system, you may do so now. The Load and Go button in the control window allows you to make quick, periodic updates to your update file as you continue editing your text file. The Load and Go command automatically performs the DIFF procedure for the files you last specified according to Steps 1 and 2 above, so you need not go through this whole procedure each time you wish to update the update file. This command makes repeated NCSA XDIFF operations quick and easy.
   There are three ways to issue the Load and Go command: 1) Click the Load and Go button in the control window, 2) select Load and Go from the File menu shown in Figure 3.4, or
   3) press -L.

Figure 3.4 XDIFF File Menu



   NOTE: If you run NCSA XDIFF under MultiFinder, you can choose to leave the program loaded at all times, but you will need to specify the memory allocation for NCSA XDIFF very carefully. The amount of memory used by NCSA XDIFF is generally equal to 64K plus twice the size of the file you are editing. You should allocate enough MultiFinder memory to accommodate the largest file you expect to compare.

4. Click the close box in the upper-left corner of the control window's title bar, select Quit from the File menu, click the Quit button in the control window, or press -Q to exit NCSA XDIFF.

Changing the Name of the Update File

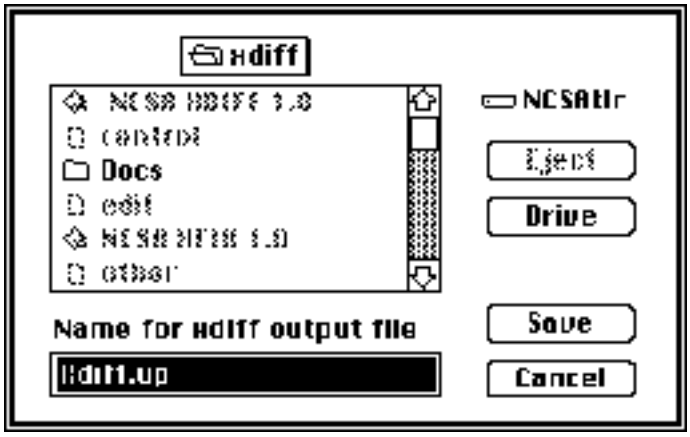
To change the default name of your update file, do the following:

1. Choose Change Output File from the File menu or press -O. The dialog box shown in Figure 3.5 appears.

2. Enter the desired name in the text box and select the directory.

3. Click Save or press RETURN.

Figure 3.5 Changing the Update File Name



Updating Your File

After you have generated the update file using NCSA XDIFF on a remote machine, you may update the file on the Macintosh using the update file and NCSA XFIX. First make sure that you have two copies of the original file on your Macintosh.

To update the original file, complete these steps:

1. Transfer the update file from the remote system to the Mac with the file to be updated using any means available.

2. Execute NCSA XFIX. NCSA XFIX compares a control file and the update file to create an updated version of the original file.

Running NCSA XFIX

To execute NCSA XFIX, do the following:

1. Access the Finder or MultiFinder.

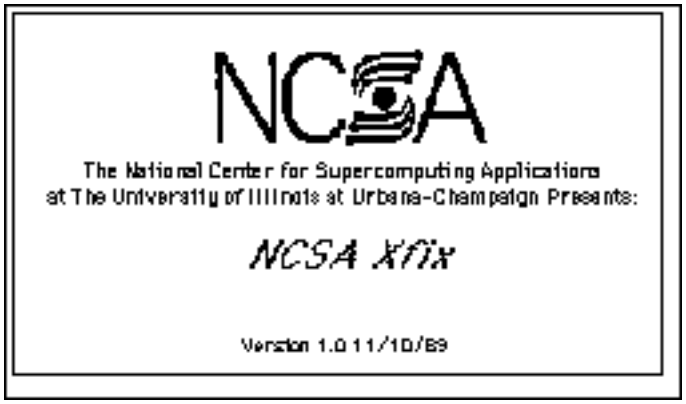
2. Double-click on the NCSA XFIX application or program icon.

The XFIX program icon is shown in Figure 3.6.

Figure 3.6 XFIX Program Icon

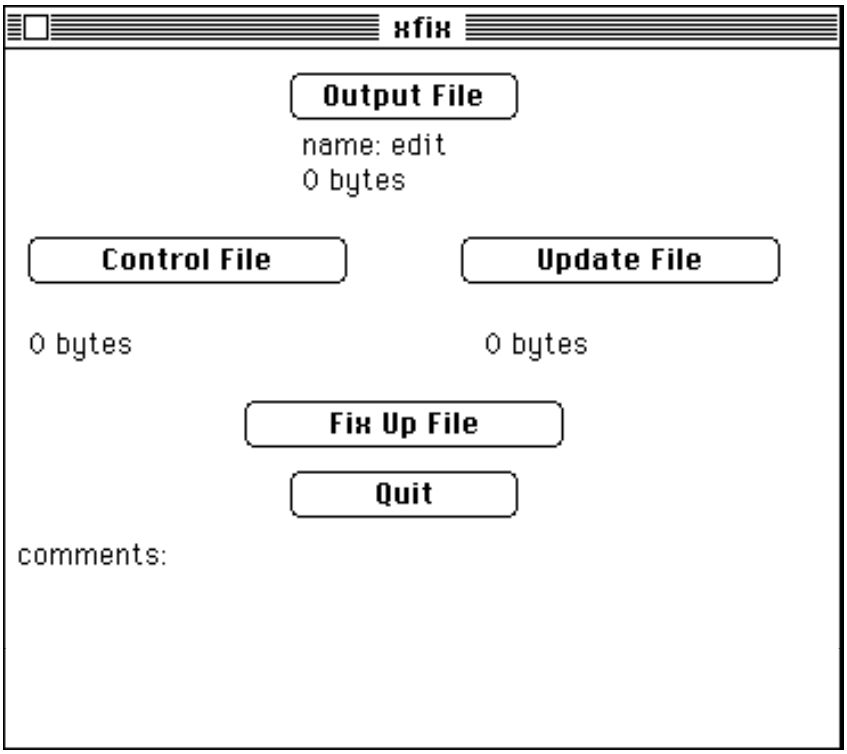
The startup dialog box shown in Figure 3.7 appears briefly to introduce

Figure 3.7 XFIX Startup Dialog Box



The startup dialog box disappears and is replaced by the *control window*, shown in Figure 3.8. The control window contains several buttons that allow you to specify which files to compare.

Figure 3.8 XFIX Control Window



Using the Control Window

The control window lets you designate the control copy, the update file, and the output file for NCSA XFIX.

To use the control window, perform the following steps:

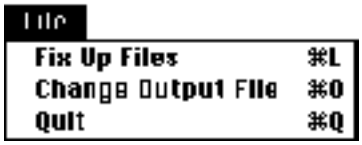
1. Click Control File to specify the control file. In the dialog box that appears, select and open the control file. The name of the selected file appears under the Control File button in the control window.

2. Click Update File to specify the update file containing the changes to the control file. In the dialog box that appears, select and open the update file. The name of the selected file appears under the Update File button in the control window.

3. Click the Output File button to specify a filename to store the resulting updated file in. Once again, a dialog box will appear where you can enter the filename and directory. The name of the output file appears below the button when you are done.

4. Click Fix Up File to run NCSA XFIX. NCSA XFIX applies the updates in the update file to the control file and stores the results in the file you specified for the output file. You may also select Fix Up Files from the File menu or press -L to invoke the operation. The file should then contain the same text as the file you edited on the remote system.

Figure 3.9 XFIX File Menu



4. Click the close box in the upper-left corner of the control window's title bar, select Quit from the File menu, click on the Quit button in the window, or press -Q to exit NCSA XDIFF.

Changing the Name of the Output File

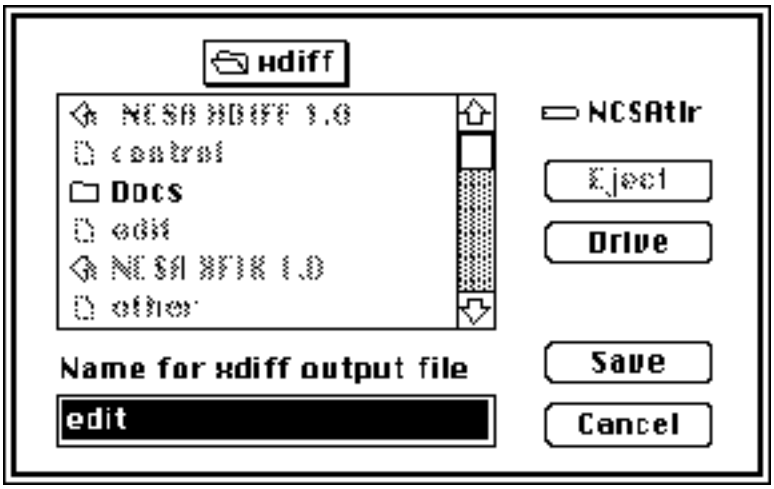
To change the default name of your update file, do the following:

1. Choose Change Output File from the File menu or press -O. The dialog box shown in Figure 3.5 appears.

2. Enter the desired name in the text box and select the directory you would like the file in.

3. Click OK or press RETURN.

Figure 3.10 Changing the Output File Name


xdiff
NCSA XDIFF 1.0
control
Docs
edit
NCSA XFTK 1.0
other
NCSAtlr
Eject
Drive
Name for xdiff output file
edit
Save
Cancel