

# Apple II File Type Notes



## Developer Technical Support

**File Type:**           **\$B5 (181)**

**Auxiliary Type:**       **All**

Full Name:    ProDOS 16 or GS/OS Shell application file

Short Name:   GS/OS Shell application

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Files of this type and auxiliary type contain application programs intended for use within a shell environment for the Apple IIGS.

**Changes since December 1991:** Broadened the definition auxiliary type bit 1 to mean the application can handle getting control with the Super Hi-Res screen on.

Files of type \$B5 contain GS/OS shell application programs. These files contain program code in Object Module Format (OMF) that is loaded by the System Loader or ExpressLoad at an address and is then executed under the control of a command shell (such as APW, for example).

The shell may provide extra services to a shell application that are not available to normal GS/OS applications (files of type \$B3). A shell application can identify which shell it is running under by examining the shell identifier.

Information about the shell identifier and other shell application environment issues may be found in *GS/OS Reference* and *APW Reference*, where the shell application environment is completely documented. OMF is documented in those manuals as well. All developers creating files of type \$B5 should be familiar with this material.

The auxiliary type for \$B5 files is now defined to indicate properties of the program contained within the file. Other parts of the system may use this information to properly control the environment for the program:

<b>bits 31-16</b>	reserved—must be 0
<b>bits 15-8</b>	signature byte. \$DB means bits 7-0 are valid
<b>bits 7-3</b>	reserved—must be 0
<b>bit 2</b>	Message Aware: 1 = uses Message Center message #1 0 = ignores Message Center message #1
<b>bit 1</b>	Desktop Application: 1 = application can handle the Super Hi-Res screen already being on when it first gets control, so the system can provide a smooth visual transition into the application 0 = application is not prepared for the Super Hi-Res screen to be on

**bit 0**

GS/OS Aware:

1 = uses long prefixes (for example, prefix 9 instead of prefix 1)

0 = uses short prefixes (less than 63 characters)

**Note:** If a Shell Application has the Desktop Application bit set, it should be prepared to get control with either the text or the Super Hi-Res screen visible. For example, if some error prevents the application from using the desktop tools, it may be necessary to make the QuickDraw II call `GrafOff` before the user can read error messages displayed on the text screen (it's OK to call `GrafOff` even if QuickDraw II is not active).

If a Shell Application does not have the Desktop Application bit set (or does not even have a \$DBxx auxiliary type), the system software reserves the right to force the text screen to be visible if QuickDraw II is not started. Do not assume that a `Quit` call from one application to another (with QuickDraw II not started) will leave the Super Hi-Res screen visible.