"File Server Uses Incompatible Version of the AFP Protocol" Error Resolution

When attempting to select a server in the Chooser, an error occurs saying "This file server uses an incompatible version of the AFP protocol. You cannot connect to it. Please contact the server's administrator." The server is using Personal File Sharing.
This article has been archived and is no longer updated by Apple.
This is the result of a network protocol communication error using AppleTalk Session Protocol.

When a file sharing client connects to a server, an AppleTalk Filing Protocol (AFP) connection is established. To initiate this connection, the client queries the server using AppleTalk Session Protocol (ASP).

Personal File Sharing servers and early version of AppleShare 3.0 had an issue, where they could send a zero length reply to a ASP Get Status. The client would interpret this as the server not having an AFP that it understands. (The versions of AFP that the server supports is part of the data returned in the ASP Get Status reply.) The result is that the client posts the specified error message.

This issue was fixed in 1993. If this issue occurs repeatedly, using recent modern Mac OS, the suspicion would be that the server software has become corrupted in memory somehow. Turning Personal File Sharing off and then back on had been reported to clear up this situation.

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