

System 7: Sharing CD-ROM Discs & Other Removable Media

When I try to disconnect (unmount) a CD-ROM on my Macintosh running System 7, I get a message stating that the CD-ROM volume cannot be unmounted because it is being shared. However, File Sharing status shows no volumes or folders being shared. Depending on the type of Macintosh being used, restarting the Macintosh may or may not correct the problem.

This article has been archived and is no longer updated by Apple.

When File Sharing starts up, it takes a snapshot of the volumes available on the current desktop. All volumes (excluding floppies, which cannot be shared) are "implicitly" shared. This occurs even if no one is connected to your system, and you have not explicitly shared any folders or volumes via the Sharing menu.

If a CD-ROM isn't inserted into the drive when you start File Sharing, you can't share the CD-ROM. Also, if you turn on File Sharing while a CD-ROM is inserted into the drive, you can't eject the CD-ROM.

When you start File Sharing, you make all volumes on your system available to the owner from anywhere on the network. Therefore, your CD-ROM (or audio CD), and any other removable media, such as removable hard drives and optical drives, are now being shared for the owner and can't be removed.

If you make a volume available to your system after File Sharing has been started, that volume won't be available to the owner unless you explicitly share it via the Sharing menu. Therefore, once you start File Sharing either by starting up with it active, or through the Sharing Setup Control Panel, you can mount and unmount new volumes as often as you like until they are explicitly shared.

To unmount (remove from your desktop) a volume that has been implicitly shared:

1. Turn File Sharing off.
2. Remove the volume.
3. Turn File Sharing back on without restarting your system.

Note: as of System 7.5, Update 1.0, file sharing was modified to allow removable media to be shared/unshared without having to turn file sharing on and off.

On most Macintosh systems, restarting works because the CD-ROM is ejected at restart, File Sharing is reset, and then you re-insert the CD-ROM. However, on other systems such as a Power Macintosh with the CD 300i Plus drive, restarting will not work because it does not eject CD's on restart.

You can share an Audio CD-ROM, but you can't use the CD Remote DA to control someone else's CD-ROM. This means an Audio CD-ROM has the same problems that removable media does with System 7 File Sharing. If you turn File Sharing on with an audio CD-ROM in the computer, it's shared. You must turn off File Sharing to eject the volume. To avoid this problem insert the audio CD-ROM after File Sharing is already turned on.

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