

Understanding .rtf versus .rtfd Formatted Documents

Some of our Mac Club Members may wonder why some documents that you email to others can not be opened by the recipient. This is particularly true of documents created in TextEdit with the extension “rtfd” or email that includes attachments that was created in the Apple Mail application . The following may help you understand some possible reasons why.

Rich Text Format Directory, is also known as **RTFD**. It has the extension *.rtfd*)

It is **Rich Text Format with Attachments**

RTFD is a primary document format of [TextEdit](#), an application used as a Text Editor in Mac OS X, and also in the Apple Mail application.

The file format is based on Rich Text Format (created by Microsoft).

However with **TextEdit** as a **Rich Text Directory File** is similar to the **.RTF format**, may contain attachments, such as images, PDFs, fonts, or other files. It was originally developed for the NeXT operating system and later moved to **Mac OS X**.

An RTFD file is a “bundle.” A bundle is actually “a folder” containing files. It contains a Rich Text file called *TXT.rtf* that contains Rich Text formatting commands, as well as commands for including images or other attachments contained within the bundle. Images used in the document are stored in the bundle in their native formats.

One big advantage with RTFD is that it supports scalable high quality image formats like PDF, so an RTFD file can print with no information loss at large paper sizes. The standard RTF format also supports a number of scalable image meta file formats, but they are not as versatile as PDF.

RTFD Format Compatibility

Mac OS X

Like RTF, RTFD files can be opened on the Mac OS X operating system because it supports bundles. **Mac applications that support RTF and RTFD include Apple's TextEdit, Apple Mail, Pages and a third-party free program called Bean.**

However, [Microsoft Office for Mac](#) and most other document

applications on the Mac platform do not support RTFD.

Microsoft Windows

In contrast to RTF, RTFD files cannot be opened properly by applications on Windows, or other non-Mac OS X operating systems, *because* bundles are currently only supported on Mac OS X.

In Microsoft Windows RTFD files are displayed as folders. Editing these folders destroys the data inside the RTFD.

In contrast to RTF

RTFD files cannot be opened properly by applications on non-Mac OS X operating systems because bundles are currently only supported on Mac OS X.

In Summary

The TextEdit program, which uses the RTFD file extension, is an open source word processor and text editor. Aside from the use of the file extension .rtfd, the TextEdit application also utilizes the Rich Text Format and other plain text files.

Primary Sources include:

[File Extension RTFD - How to Open RTFD Files](#)

Rich Text Format Directory - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

<http://www.fileinfo.com/extension/rtd>

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