

## Re: Word looks for another server on the network

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*Source:*

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Mac/microsoft.public.mac.office.word/2006-12/msg00195.html>

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- *From:* Elliott Roper <nospam@xxxxxxxx>
  - *Date:* Sat, 09 Dec 2006 12:50:21 +0000
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In article <1165631003.614302.48260@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>, <rwargo@xxxxxxxx> wrote:

I've experienced a similar problem which was the result of an alias to an offline folder; specifically, it was the Pictures folder that I had aliased to a network folder. Removing the alias or renaming the Pictures alias removed the AFP Connection Status dialog. I've blogged about this problem and solution on my blog (<http://www.rickwargo.com>). The entry is at:

<http://www.rickwargo.com/2006/12/08/afp-connection-status-and-various-os-x-applications-locking-up/>

Yes!! That's what happened to me too. Alias problems. Its something that goes back to OS9. I had a fax application in that state for ages till I found the file that was really an alias. It was on a recently used list or something else innocuous.

It might be worth Henry's time to potter about in the Finder looking for little curvy arrows on the icons of files that Word might be interested in.

Henry, I agree with your assertion that it shouldn't happen, but it is probably out of Microsoft's hands to a large degree. When Word asks OS X to do something with a file, it has to wait politely till it is done. Remember OS X is a flavour of BSD unix, where I/O operations are depressingly uniformly synchronous [1]. If you ask for something, your thread is dead till it happens. Of course Word's designers could have developed a complex multithreaded jacket around file operations, and added their own timeouts, but honestly, it would have been a nightmare that would break on every second OS revision. There are many things on my wish list for Word, but *\*that\** is not one of them.

The alias could be simply to a file of your own that is in some recently used list or list of templates or even a font. I wouldn't get too hung up on ~/Pictures or ~/Library just yet.

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There is one thing that might be in Word's backyard. That is the looping behaviour you see. It would be very useful if you could make a simple demonstration of this that others could replicate. The MVPs among us will send it on to the developers to examine. (Or you could use the send feedback menu item)

1. I'm being unkind to unix possibly. Even my beloved VMS, with all its lovely QIOs and ASTs, is pretty synchronous across a file lookup. Finding a file is actually quite an intricate operation, involving lots of separate I/O operations, and often a delicate dance with locks and mutexes, which in turn bring on timers with retries and lots of process switching inside the OS. Aliases make it far worse, not least when the physical file, or another in the chain of aliases is on a different volume.

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To de-mung my e-mail address:– fsnosspam\$elliott\$\$

PGP Fingerprint: 1A96 3CF7 637F 896B C810 E199 7E5C A9E4 8E59 E248

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