
Rainlendar can't import ics file w/ special chars

Posted by observer - 2011/05/13 15:32

Hi there,

I repeatedly found my much appreciated Rainlendar unable to import any .ics file which contains an umlaut (ö,ä,ü) and certain other special characters (tested "é") in it's file name.

Rainlendar responds with a rather generic error dialog:
"Unknown file '.ics' - The file cannot be imported into Rainlendar."

Replacing the umlaut with a regular character fixes this as a workaround.

Mac OS X 10.6.7
Rainlendar Pro 2.8.1 b103 32-bit

Re: Rainlendar can't import ics file w/ special chars

Posted by Rainy - 2011/05/15 05:53

That seems to be a Mac bug. It works fine on Windows and Linux. I'm not really sure what exactly causes this on Mac but it seems to be somewhere deep in the 3rd party libraries.

Re: Rainlendar can't import ics file w/ special chars

Posted by observer - 2011/05/15 09:22

I guessed as much but still I wanted to report this issue.
Maybe if you happen to find the root cause later, you can forward it to the library provider, since this is quite a frequent problem for those who have a number of special chars in their language. ;)
Thanks for your fast response, anyway.

Re: Rainlendar can't import ics file w/ special chars

Posted by Jorge_Luis - 2011/05/15 10:12

I'm neither an expert on this subject nor a Mac user, but with a Google search I found this:
The cause is the different implementation of how the filesystem stores the file name.

In Unicode, Ü can be represented in two ways, one is by Ü alone, the other is by U + "combining umlaut character". A Unicode string can contain both forms, but as it's confusing to have both, the file system normalizes the unicode string by setting every umlauted-U to Ü, or U + "combining umlaut character".

Linux uses the former method, called Normal-Form-Composed (or NFC), and OS X uses the latter method, called Normal-Form-Decomposed (NFD).

Apparently git doesn't care about this point and simply uses the byte sequence of the filename, which leads to the problem you're having.

Source: <http://stackoverflow.com/questions/5581857/git-and-the-umlaut-problem-on-mac-os-x>

Is this useful?

EDIT: More from "Mac OS X Developer Library" - Table of illegal characters on HFS volumes
<http://developer.apple.com/library/mac/#technotes/tn/tn1150table.html>

Re: Rainlendar can't import ics file w/ special chars

Posted by Rainy - 2011/05/18 11:45

Thanks. Somehow I'm not surprised that Mac does things differently than everyone else. I'll see if the problem could be fixed in Rainlendar.

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